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OF  
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OHIO

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*History of*  
CROOKSVILLE, OHIO

*Guy E. Crooks*  


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PORT WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Publishers — The Crooksville Lions Club

## FOREWORD

In April 1869, I was moved into this neighborhood at the age of six years. I can well remember the occasion. We found only a neighborhood, not even the smallest village. Seventy-five years have passed. All my life excepting one year has been spent in this one place. During these seventy-five years, I have heard many controversies concerning the name, growth, and events that have taken place in this period of time, and these have impressed me with the thought of compiling some facts in the form of a Book which I hope will serve the purpose for which they are intended. Some things may have been overlooked for which I will regret, but I have unfolded seventy years of memory in this Book, which I hope my many friends will read with interest. This is my contribution to the little City of Crooksville.

THE AUTHOR



1373670

## THE PUBLISHERS

In the spring of 1945 we were approached by the author to publish or place in book form the history of Crooksville, Ohio.

Being a service club and pledged "To take an active interest in the civic, commercial, social and moral welfare of the community" we deemed it our duty to undertake this work.

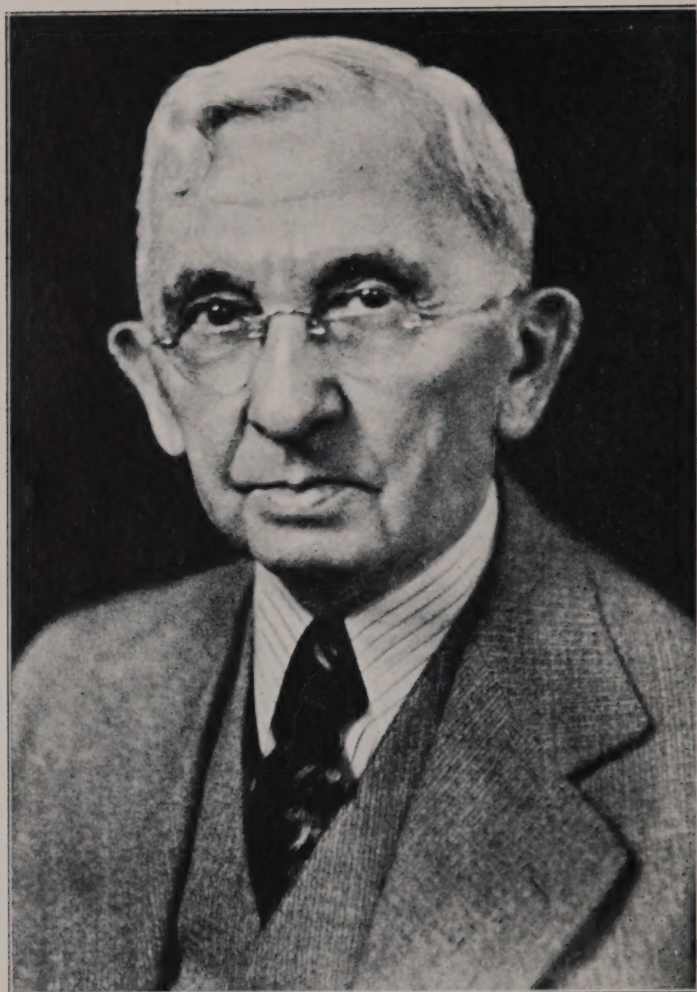
Realizing our handicap, as none of our members were historians, we have put forth our best efforts to accomplish this task.

With the permission of the author, we have included in the latter pages of the book many photographs of business establishments as they appear to-day, knowing that in years ahead they will become as interesting as the pictures of fifty years ago.

Through the co-operation of these business men the publishing of this history was made possible.

The photographs in this volume are by  
CHARLES SCHOFIELD, Zanesville, Ohio

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Guy E. Crooks



In Memory Of  
GUY E. CROOKS

Born June 6, 1863

Died Dec. 28, 1945

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the  
boundless deep,  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell  
When I embark.

For, though from out our bourne of  
time and place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

— Alfred Tennyson

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Jacob Reed



## BEFORE CROOKSVILLE EXISTED

I have often been asked the following questions: "Where did Crooksville get its name? Was it named for you or some of your ancestors? Was there at some time a bunch of "Crooks" located in this community? Do all the crooks come from Crooksville? Is it a crooked town, morally, etc?"

Being one of the oldest residents of Crooksville, and being a resident of the community in which Crooksville is located for seventy-five years, some time before Crooksville was ever thought of or even dreamed of, I will try as best I can to answer the above questions by giving you a brief history of our beloved city "Crooksville."

Some time between 1820 and 1825, there was a young man living somewhere in the New England states by the name of Jacob Reed of wealthy parentage, who inherited quite a large sum of money. On receiving his inheritance, he immediately left his native land and traveled westward seeking a country in which he could invest his money and multiply his fortune. After reaching the state of Pennsylvania, he met a young lady by the name of Lydia Reem. It was a case of real love at first sight. Jacob proposed, Lydia accepted, and the wedding followed. Immediately, Mr. Reed, accompanied by his new bride, continued west until he reached Harrison Township, Perry County, Ohio, establishing a temporary residence near the Iliff Methodist Church. Mr. Reed started out to view the new surroundings by following the South Fork of Jonathan Creek from Stringtown through the heavy timber section to a point where Main Street of Crooksville now crosses that once beautiful stream of pure water, that was filled with all kinds of fish. There he rested, fully convinced that this was his "Promised Land." He proceeded to negotiate with the Federal Government for a parcel of land on the East side of the creek along the section line running East and West on the South side of now Crooksville. He bought and paid for same and received a warranty deed, signed by the late President James Monroe. This deed is in the possession of some of the descendants of Mr. Reed, but cannot be located at this time. Later he purchased another parcel

joining his land on the North from a man by the name of Bell. Each of the two parcels extended over the creek several hundred yards West near the present Buckeye Street. He then purchased another tract of land on the West side of the creek from the State of Ohio, containing one hundred and sixty acres or more, making in all between three and four hundred acres of land that he owned. He built himself a humble home on the bank above the creek on the East side near where the residence of Mr. Wilson Winter now stands. It was before the days of steam saw mills, and Mr. Reed knew that to dispose of the timber on his land at a profit it must be converted into lumber. He proceeded at once to control the water in the creek by cutting a channel from the main creek at a curve south of where the Zanesville and Western Railroad now crosses this stream to a point north near where Lewis Wright Shoe Shine Emporium now stands. He then built two dams, one across each channel connecting them by a stone wall, making a large basin of water for a mile or more above the dams. Over the east dam, a few feet south of where Tom Maxwell's store building now stands, he constructed a saw mill which operated by water power. He cut and sawed the timber on his land and sold it in the markets. The small strip of land surrounded by the two streams of water was not accessible only at dry seasons in the summer or when the creek was frozen over in the winter. This island was covered with soft maple trees, briars, and bushes, where drift rubbish would gather after the floods each spring and presented an unsightly appearance. This strip of land in later years was given the name of "Coney Island." (I will mention this island later.) It was no unusual sight to Mr. Reed's family to watch the deer visit a spring below his residence and quench their thirst. This spring is still supplying water today, the very best of fresh soft drinking water.

Mr. Reed was a good financier and accumulated a considerable sum of money from the sale of his lumber, and the products of his farm. As he cleared the land and turned the forest into meadows and pasture fields, he multiplied his herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. He and his faithful wife coveted a more palatial home in which to live. They



Jacob Reed's Residence



dreamed of an earthly mansion with all the conveniences and comforts that were in keeping with the times in which they were living. They planned and built a modern brick house joining the frame structure in which they were living at that time. (I am not certain of the year in which it was built.) Mr. Reed, in speaking of this beautiful structure, as long as he lived and in his last Will and Testament of his possessions, referred to it as his brick mansion. This building is still standing in fairly good condition, and is occupied by Mrs. Louis Trout and her family at present.

### RAILROADS

In the year of 1853, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company surveyed a branch from their main line at Trinway, Ohio, through Zanesville, Lancaster, and Washington Court House to Morrowtown, Ohio, connecting with the Little Miami Railroad into Cincinnati, which was known as the Cincinnati and Muskingum Valley Railroad Company. In the year of 1856, the section between Zanesville and New Lexington was completed and opened for traffic, which passed through Mr. Reed's farm from North to South. Due to concessions, granted to the Railroad Company by Mr. Reed, the Railroad Company extended a spur siding from their main track just south of the wagon road, (now Main Street) for the convenience of the community, over which Mr. Reed erected a warehouse to store his grain for shipping, designating this point as Reed Station. The local freight train carried a passenger coach and would stop by flag to discharge and receive passengers.

### FROM MUSKINGUM TO PERRY COUNTY

In April 1868, my father, Joseph E. Crooks, with his family, moved from Springfield Township, Muskingum County, five miles west of Zanesville, to Reed Station, Perry County, to operate a small stoneware pottery for Benjamin S. Brown in Snake Hollow. He hauled his household furnishings to Zanesville, loaded them in a railroad car and shipped them to Reed Station, spending the night with his good neighbors and friends. Early the next day, my

father, mother, and their family were brought to Zanesville in a farm wagon by one of their neighbors to embark for our new home by railroad. It was the first time my two youngest sisters and myself had ever looked upon a railroad train. Our first ride was a thrill that I have never forgotten. While less than six years of age, the scenery around Reed Station is as bright in my memory as the day we stepped from the train. We moved into a house owned by Mr. Benjamin S. Brown, on the hill south of Reed Station where Mr. Claude Blair's residence now stands.

### SURROUNDINGS

Surrounding the valley in which Crooksville is now located was farm and timber land (mostly timber). Within the present corporate limits were the farms or parts of the farms of Jacob Reed, Samuel McKeever, Wm. D. Wilson, Wm. Bell, Joseph McKeever, and Lazalere Burley. Later James Moore purchased the Joseph McKeever farm. The farm residences of Jacob Reed, Samuel McKeever, and James Moore are still standing and occupied as residential homes within the corporate limits. Following are the names of some of the farmers in the neighborhood at that time, 1869: Joseph Bowers, Andrew Rambo, Uncle Johnnie Rambo, Jacob Rambo, Wm. Bell, Wm. D. Wilson, Eli Pitcock, Mrs. Sarah Burley, Andrew Amerine, John B. DeLong, Lazalere Richards, John Richards, Josiah Stoneburner, Geo. W. Watts, Henry Watts, Chas. Watts, Jas. J. Brown, John W. Stoneburner, Noah H. Stoneburner, Joe Thomas Watt, Wesley Brown, Abraham Lewis, Isaac Lewis, Mason T. Moore, Isaac Leasure, James McInerney, Andrew Brown, Wm. Dilts, Thos. Morrow, Benjamin S. Brown, Ransom Ellis, James DeSelm, Wm. C. Brown, and Hugh Sharkey. Many of these farmers had small log stoneware potteries located on their farms. There was a great many of the men who worked in the potteries that owned their own homes, others lived in rented property. These men with their families not only added to the population of the community, but lifted the moral standing in proportion.



The Stone House



There was a country store along the road south of Reed Station in front of the "Stone House" now owned by Mr. James Driggs, in which Caleb Hitchcock carried a general line of merchandise.

The nearest post offices were McLuney and Roseville. There was no mail route passing through. A daily paper was not known of at that time. Some person or persons usually visited the post office each week to get their mail and would bring the neighbors mail also. Two passenger and mail trains passed north and south each day, but did not stop at Reed Station. One freight train with passenger coach attached stopped on flag to receive and discharge passengers. If you desired to go to Zanesville and return by rail the same day, one had to walk to Roseville to get a train. If to New Lexington or beyond, one walked to McLuney.

There were no loafing places for the men. Occasionally they would congregate at some pottery and spend the evening when a kiln was firing. This usually happened after a chicken roost had been visited.

### COMMUNITY SPIRIT

In those days people were very friendly and great sociability prevailed. Most of the people were Methodist in their religious belief. Some few of the old School Baptists, and a few Campbellites, yet they all attended the services at the Methodist Church and fellowshiped and worshipped together. If there was sickness, sorrow, or misfortune in any of the homes, everybody showed the real spirit of sympathy and charity, neighbor to neighbor. If, for instance, Mr. Jones was sick. The men in the neighborhood came in, cradled his wheat, helped to thrash it, mowed his meadows, cut, husked and cribbed the corn, butchered his hogs, and made the sausage. Their wives peeled the apples and made apple butter, rendered the lard, and scrubbed the house. Families visited with each other. The wives would spend the afternoon quilting. The husbands would come after the day's work for supper and the evening was spent until a late hour in social conversation.



Joseph E. Crooks

The young people would meet each other at the old church, through the week at singing schools, mite societies, spelling schools, and parties. Often in the summer on Sunday afternoons, they would congregate under some shade tree and spend the afternoon together. Lasting impressions were made which often resulted in real love on which a new home was established for all time.

It was the custom of the Methodist people to hold revival services each winter. Sometimes these services would last for several weeks. The object of these services was the salvation of souls, and they were largely attended by all. People became convicted of their sins, repented, and accepted Christ as their Saviour. Many young men and young women went out to live consecrated lives for Christ. It was at some of these series of meetings that young people chose their life companions. At the close of services, the young men would stand at one side of the aisle of the church. When the young lady of his choice passed by, he would step out and extend his arm. If she was favorably impressed she accepted his arm, and he accompanied her home. The next day at school this was the topic of conversation at the recess period. I could recite many pleasant experiences, possibly I have said enough, but one thing I will say, "We enjoyed life then, I think, more than the young people of today."

### WHY NAMED CROOKSVILLE

In the year of 1870, my father bought a house and a small strip of land by the side of the railroad across from the siding where Ed Rudolph now resides. He moved into this house, fitted one of the rooms with shelves and counters, and opened a small store. It was because of the conditions above mentioned that my father circulated a petition through the neighborhood, securing the necessary signatures, praying the post office officials at Washington, D. C. to establish a post office to be known as "Reeds Post Office," and at the same time made application for the appointment of the office of Postmaster. In due time the post office department reported back favorable to the establishing of the office, and his appointment as postmaster, but advised that due to the fact that there was already a "Reeds



Post Office" in Ohio, it would be necessary to give it some other name, suggesting that the office be known as "Crooksville." This suggestion was pleasing to my father. The Post Office officials at Washington were so advised, the office established, and Joseph E. Crooks received his commission to serve as Postmaster. As I recall, the fee for his services for the first quarter that he served was less than \$5.00. The last quarter for the year increased to between seven and eight dollars. He served for fifteen years, or until the election and inauguration of the late Grover Cleveland to the Presidency of the United States, at which time he submitted his resignation as Postmaster to the Postmaster General at Washington, D. C., which was accepted and the late Worley Whitehouse succeeded him.

After the post office was established in 1870, the passenger trains did not stop to receive and discharge the mail. The postmaster built a small platform beside the track with a bannister at each end, and on the side next to the track in which he would stand with the mail pouch in hand. As the train slowed down, the mail clerk would grab the pouch and kick out another pouch containing the incoming mail. This was a dangerous transaction, and the railroad officials installed a mail crane instead, enabling the mail clerk to grab the mail pouch with an iron hook at any speed of the train. The patrons of the post office were delighted to receive mail twice each day.

### FIRST RAILROAD COAL MINE

In the year of 1872, Jacob Reed sold his coal on the East side of the creek to James Moore and Addison Palmer. They opened a mine, built a tipple where Mrs. John Talkenberg's residence now stands. They laid a tramway from the tipple to the railroad at a point near where the Zanesville and Western Railroad crosses the Pennsylvania Railroad, which extended out over a siding along the main track. The coal was loaded in cars drawn by a horse and dumped into gondolas and shipped to the Market. John Cork, Sr. had the contract of hauling the coal from the tipple to the railroad siding. This little old white mare named Kit would take her place by the side of the track and wait for Mr. Cork to drop the coal into the gondola

ready to pull the car back to the mine. It was a great pleasure to stand on the running board with Mr. Cork and listen to him as he told me of his boyhood days in England and his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to the United States. He was my friend when I was a boy of ten years and remained my friend until his death, many years later. This was at a time before men knew anything about shooting coal. It was all pick work. No motors, mules, or ponies were used to pull the coal out of the mine. The miners had to push the cars with their shoulder, assisted by large dogs hitched in front of the car. Every miner owned his own dog. Dog harness was as much in demand as horse harness, and large dogs were as valuable as blind horses to grind the clay for the potters at that time. A well broken dog would bring from ten to fifty dollars. There were no empty houses for miners to live in. They walked from McLuney, Saltillo, Roseville, and surrounding communities to the mines. Men would start work at three and four o'clock in the morning, and quit at two or three o'clock in the afternoon.

### FIRST BUILDING BOOM

Mr. Reed laid out one acre lots on each side of the road on the West side of the creek from the Methodist church to Snake Hollow, and offered the lots for sale at \$100 each. The first lot sold was at the corner of West Main & Buckeye Street which was purchased by my father. My present residence stands on a part of this acre. The lots sold rapidly. Most of the acre lots were cut up in quarter acres and resold. Houses went up fast and Crooksville assumed the air of a real village. Mr. James Moore purchased of Jacob Reed all the land North of Main Street between the railroad and North Buckeye Street joining his farm.

### THE LOW LAND

The section of land on each side of the creek was very low. In rainy seasons the creek would overflow its banks, blocking traffic from the Henry Frecker property to the bridge over the creek on Main Street. I have witnessed men swimming horses from the bridge to the Frecker property. West Main Street is filled from two to six feet

in places from the Creek to Lee McFarland's Barber Shop. All the ground owned by both the Pennsylvania and New York Central Railroad Companies around their stations is filled ground. In high water seasons, this great volume of water that spread over all the lower land is now bottle necked and must pass under the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge until it reaches a stage sufficiently high to break over Main Street, joining Burley Run and passing out over the railroad track to flood Roseville and points farther North.

### THE HILLS AROUND US

The hills surrounding us when cleared of timbers made fine grazing land and adapted itself to sheep growing. Most of the farmers owned one or more flocks of sheep. The wool commanded a profitable price, and the cost of caring for the sheep was small. Every spring representatives of the eastern woolen mills would call on all the farmers, inspect, and buy their wool. I well remember seeing the wool buyers make their annual trips through the neighborhood buying wool. I knew James J. Walpoole of Roseville and Henry Stansberry of Deavertown as the wool buyers. Unwashed wool would not bring as much per pound as washed wool, hence it paid the farmer to wash his sheep before shearing. They built large pens under the old covered wagon bridge just below the mill dams. Commencing in May, the farmers would lead their flocks in from the fields into these pens. They did not drive their flocks but, like the shepherds of old, went before the sheep with a bucket of salt, and as he called them, the sheep knew his voice and followed their shepherd. Each sheep was carried into the running water beneath the dam by men where they would squeeze the water through the wool on the back of sheep until the wool was white.

Mason T. Moore was the largest sheep grower in this section. He usually owned from seven to eight hundred head. It required several days to wash so many sheep. The first time I remember seeing Harry Moore was when he was a boy with a pan of salt in his hand, wearing a felt hat tied on his head by a shoe string under his chin, leading his father's flocks to the sheep pens. It was great sport to sit on the abutment of the bridge and watch the process.



The mine dogs were not always well fed, and unless tied or locked in the dog house at night, in their hunger they would destroy the farmers' flocks. Many farmers who did not own a sheep house to shelter his flocks at night, disposed of his flocks and sought other investments.

After the washing of his sheep, the shearing of the wool followed, which lasted for several weeks. Not every farmer could shear sheep. Good sheep shearers were in demand. Like corn huskers, there were some champions in the country. They were paid so much a head. It afforded an opportunity for a young man to make some real money if he could use the shears skillfully. By the time the sheep shearing season was over, country picnics were on hand. The man who could shear sheep was in demand by the young ladies. They knew he had the cash to buy lemonade and ice cream at the picnics.

I am reminded of two young men who had a date with two beautiful young ladies. One of the young men was a farmer, the other was a potter. The young ladies were sisters and daughters of a farmer. The occasion was a trip to Avondale, now Buckeye Lake by rail. The day was spent boat riding and fishing. After returning home, the two young men checked their expenses, and counted the cash on hand. The farmer boy remarked "had it not been for my sheep shearing money I would have been bankrupt." It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. These two young men got off cheap compared with the same trip today.

### CLEARING THE TIMBER

Mr. Addison Palmer disposed of his interests in the coal mine to James Moore in 1873 and associated himself with a capitalist of Cincinnati by the name of Lippincott, and bought all the coal and timber land on the west side of the creek that Jacob Reed owned. Steam sawmills were brought into the woods, large timber cut and sawed into lumber, small timber converted into railroad ties, the bark of black and red oak saplings stripped and cured into tanbark. All these products were hauled to the railroad station by wagons and two wheeled log carts drawn by large yoke of cattle (oxen). The drivers of the teams would sometimes fill the air with oaths as they would crack their

long whips over the backs of the poor old ox which was doing his best. Railroad ties were piled as high at times as houses waiting for inspection by the railroad officials. The ties were shamefully inspected, only chalking the ends of the ties that were supposed to be A No. 1. The percentage of good ties was small. The percentage of seconds was large. The average layman could not detect the difference. The railroad company reaped the harvest. For some cause of which I do not know, Palmer & Lippincott failed to meet their payments as agreed, and the land and coal reverted back to Jacob Reed and activities ceased.

My father had been supplying the miners, potters, and the timber cutters with their living from his small store, but the outgo was greater than the income; hence Mr. James Moore took over his store. My father built a small building beside his house and moved the post office into this building. The population had increased and all shipping had to be billed through Roseville and McLuney. The railroad officials proposed to establish a freight and ticket office, and appoint my father as their agent, providing he would permit them to use a part of the post office building for their office. It was necessary to have the approval of the government before granting their request. The permit was granted, the freight and ticket office opened, and my father became the first freight and ticket agent at Reed Station. The remuneration being on a commission basis, the salary was very light. Nevertheless, the commissions from the post office and agency together yielded twelve to fifteen dollars monthly, and my sister did the work for both while my father returned to the pottery. I am not sure the year in which the agency was established, but think it was in 1873.

### ANOTHER COAL MINE

In 1874, Messrs. Michael & Peter Tague of McLuney bought a large acreage of coal land south of Crooksville, opened a mine, built a large boarding house and several living houses near the mine. The railroad company laid a siding to the mine and operations began. This was known as "The Horn." The Tagues operated on a much larger scale than Moore & Palmer. Their mine was much better

equipped. Instead of working dogs, they ripped the mine roof, lowered the track, and pulled the coal with mules and ponies. Instead of cutting the coal with picks, they shot it down with powder. They opened their own store at "The Horn" for the convenience of their miners. After several years of operation, they sold the mine to David Davis of Coshocton, who continued operation. In the meantime, O. F. McKinney of Zanesville leased a large section of coal joining the Tague coal, bought the Davis mine, extended their entries, electrified their mines, and brought the coal to the surface by motor power. This organization was known as the Zanesville Coal Company, and was operated and managed by O. F. McKinney until his death in 1907, when Wm. Timmons succeeded him. This Company was one of the leading coal companies in Perry County, and added much to the life and prosperity of Crooksville. The Crescent Coal Company, Union Coal Company, and Rend Coal Company all shared in making Crooksville the Metropolis of Perry County.

### A NEW STORE

This same year, Samuel Howerth, a business man, moved into the neighborhood, rented a part of the farm of Jacob Reed, did some farming and engaged in buying and shipping stoneware. Mr. Howerth and Mr. Joseph H. Bowers, a farmer, formed a partnership and bought the general store then owned by James Moore. The room which Mr. Moore was occupying was a very small room. The new firm built a new and much larger store building, increased their stock of merchandise, and bought and shipped stoneware from the potteries. They would supply the potters through the winter with their necessities in food, clothing, etc., and in the spring when the season opened, the potters would deliver their stoneware to the railroad track and after deducting their store bills, Howerth and Bowers would pay the potter cash for all due him if there was anything due (generally nothing due), ship the ware into the market where it was converted into cash.





Blue Bird Pot Shop

The pottery business was growing. New Blue Bird plants were being built each year. Because of the increased demand for all kinds of stoneware, the coal mines were employing more men, and the housing question became a problem. James Moore laid out the land that he purchased of Jacob Reed on the west side of the Pennsylvania Railroad a few years previous to this time into town lots, and offered the lots for sale. This was known as the "James Moore addition." The lots were in good demand, sold rapidly, and many houses were built, increasing the population of the village considerably. In laying out the above addition, Mr. Moore visualized the possibility of factory sites and reserved the east portion of this land for that purpose.

In 1876, W. N. Burley and Wilson Winter, brothers-in-law entered into a partnership, bought the stock of merchandise of Howerth & Bowers, and continued the business on a much larger scale. They opened a wholesale stoneware house in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Howerth, moving to this city, took charge of this part of the business, Mr. Bowers retiring to his farm. The new firm's business grew rapidly. They opened up new territory in the south and other sections of the country, and were buying the output of practically all the Blue Bird potteries in and around Crooksville. Mr. Burley owned a small pottery that was established by his father, Larzalere Burley in 1870. This business was absorbed by the new firm and became the cornerstone of this new and successful enterprise. In the year of 1885, Wm. H. Brown, a successful potter of Burley Run, associated himself with this firm in the stoneware end of their business, and they built a new plant on the same location on which the old Burley plant had weathered the storm for many years. This was the beginning of the ending of the Blue Bird potteries. This new organization was known as the Burley, Winter & Brown Company. They buried the blind horse that ground the clay, installed clay washers, power driven turning wheels, and other modern machinery. Built new kilns, discarded cord wood for coal, and employed at least 50 people.

Let us go back just a few years and review some matters of interest, lest we forget, and return to the Burley and Winter project later.

## FROM 1875 TO 1880

From 1875 to 1880, the population on the west side of the creek had grown considerably. No public improvements had taken place. Large tonnages of coal and clay were being hauled through the streets to the potteries. There were no sidewalks. In the early fall and late spring, the streets were a pool of mud. There were no street lights. Lanterns were in demand. In fact, it was not safe to travel at night without a lantern in your hand. The miners wore their mine caps with the lamps trimmed and burning. There were lanterns made of tin, perforated with small round holes, a door on the side, and a wire bale fastened to the top of the lantern so that it could be carried by hand. Inside of the lantern was a candle stick in which you would place a candle. The light would shine out through the holes to guard your steps. Then came the wire lantern with a glass globe, a great improvement; then the coal oil lantern, and next the lard oil lantern. Each new invention was a great improvement giving greater light. In order to keep out of the mud, it was necessary to cross the fields of the farmers. Some of the land owners would not permit the crossing of their property by pedestrians, and they put up signs marked "No Trespassing on this farm." It was difficult to visit your neighbors, attend church and school in those days, yet this did not keep the folks at home. The men wore stogy boots, the women heavy calf skin pegged shoes with high tops, the boys and girls copper toed boots and shoes, everybody wearing yarn socks and stockings; hence the mud could not stop the traffic. The crowd moved slowly but surely. A good shoe brush and a box of Mason's blacking would soon change the appearance of the foot-ware to make them presentable for Sunday wear.

The residents of Burley Run looked forward to the time of retirement, selected a lot, and later built a home. They had faith in the future of Crooksville. The muddy and dark streets did not discourage them, and they, one by one, built their homes and moved into town to spend the remnants of their days and rest from their labors. Along with the older citizens, a number of the younger residents of the Burley Run neighborhood located in Crooksville also.



Not to rest, but to work and be boosters for the village. One of the most active young men at that time is now numbered with our oldest and most esteemed citizens, and is known as Uncle Augustus Printz. In conversation with this good citizen the other day, he informed me that he was among the first to buy a lot in the James Moore addition. This lot joined up to the Methodist Church property. Mr. Printz said he desired to be in the best part of the town and near the church of his choice. He immediately built himself a nice and comfortable home in which he moved his family and settled down for life. No sooner had Mr. Printz and his faithful wife made themselves comfortable in their new home, when something unexpected happened. His old friends, he said, would come early to church and visit with him until the service opened. He said his home became a dressing room for the ladies. After walking through the mud in the winter and the dust in the summer, it was necessary to adjust their make-up before entering the church; viz., brush their shoes, curl their bangs, powder their faces, adjust their bustles (bustles were in style then), etc. By the time the services began his patience had been exhausted, and his morals somewhat impaired. When the east side addition was laid out, he rushed in and bought the lot on which his present residence is located, selling his former home to Mr. Noah Stoneburner without explanation. Then Mr. Printz said, "just as soon as they were comfortably situated in their new home, the United Brethren people bought the lot across the street, built a new church, and he experienced the same agony as in the past, except the styles were more complicated and aggravating. He then went over on Winter Street, selected a lot on which Manley Cooper's residence now stands, feeling sure he could spend his declining years in quietude and peace, but low and behold, when he went to pay for the lot, Mr. W. N. Burley complimented him on his good judgment, saying, "You are getting in the best neighborhood in the town. The Catholic people just bought the lot across the street for their new church, and the congregation of the Church of Christ just a few yards back of you on Burley Street bought a lot and are going to build a new church thereon." He immediately cancelled the purchase, and he is still here.

"Now you see," Mr. Printz said, "Just across Sycamore Street opposite my side porch where I rest so much, the Apostolic congregation is just finishing a new church and I am too old to move." He said rather modestly, "If I was only younger I would open a beauty parlor in my home, sell lip stick, face paint and powder, distribute fashion plates, and polish the ladies finger nails." With a smile, he said "It is too late now. Life is just one thing and then another."

The poet drew a beautiful picture of life when he said:

"We share each other's woes  
Each other's burdens bear  
And often for each other flows  
A sympathizing tear."

Uncle Augustus has our love and sympathy, and we wish him many more happy years of life.

The population continued to grow, yet church and school facilities remained just the same, only one house of worship, only one school house one mile up Burley Run with an enrollment of 100 pupils all huddled in one room with one teacher. The Board of Directors becoming conscious of the situation, provided the necessary funds, built a one room addition to the school building and employed one additional teacher. This relieved the situation until the school district could be divided, which was accomplished in 1880. All the school children in Crooksville and the surrounding community as far east as the Morgan County Line in Possum Hollow attended the old Burley Run School. The old building is still standing and is occupied as a residence by William Hiles and Ephriham Harris. It is pleasant to think of the old school days, studying McGuffey's spelling books and readers, Ray's arithmetic, Harvey's grammar, geography and the Spencerian system of penmanship four to six months each year and looking forward to the graduating exercises on the last day of school. Separation of teacher and pupils was often pathetic. It was a great honor to the young man or lady that could pass the county examination and receive a certificate to teach school.

Cold chills run down my back as I think of the many cold days that I faced the wind, snow and rain as I made my journey to this sacred spot. Many times clad with coat, pants, shirt, and cap, (no overcoat) shod with knit socks,

(mother knit) brogan boots with copper toes, snow water running through my boots, I answered the roll call and took my seat. It was there I spent some of my happiest days. Except one and one-half terms, all my school days were spent in this old school house up Burley Run. Only a few of the boys and girls of those days are left to tell the story. Before we leave the old school house, let me name some of my teachers: Mary DeLong, Margaret McKeever, Lizzie Wigton, Alice Wigton, Edith Martin, Ezra Brown, John Pace, John Williams, Henry Beecham, Joseph Moore, Joseph Dusenberry, and George W. DeLong. All the above persons were ladies and gentlemen of high character, intellect, and morals, which has reflected in the minds and lives of their pupils. "They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

#### FROM 1880 TO 1884

From 1880 to 1884, there was little growth in the population. Practically all the vacant lots had been sold and built upon. The east side was still farm land and owned by Jacob Reed. Mr. Reed would not sell any more of his land for building purposes. He died in 1881 at the age of 84 years. All his property was willed to his widow for her lifetime. John B. DeLong and Joseph H. Bowers were named as administrators, but nothing could be sold until after the death of Mrs. Reed which occurred in 1888 at the ripe old age of 99 years. The administrators proceeded to liquidate the estate, selling all the land (about 160 acres) on the East side of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Burley and Winter. The new owners proceeded to lay out their entire holdings into town lots, streets, and alleys. The lots were in demand and sold rapidly. They sold 43 acres of the Northeast corner to the late Noah T. Brown. Mr. Brown had this section plotted and christened "Fairview Heights" and offered the lots for sale. They too were in demand and sold rapidly. Many people from Morgan County, Saltillo, McLuney, yes, and Roseville migrated rapidly into Crooksville, built their new homes, invested in the potteries, and general business of all kinds. Moreover, these good people contributed largely to the moral and religious spirit and life of our village. They and their posterity represent a



large percentage of the population of Crooksville today.

The population increased rapidly. The Odd Fellows building was among the first to be built, followed by business buildings and residential homes. The old blue bird potteries tumbled down one by one and the modern steam propelled stoneware plants marched forward. The blowing of the whistle and the tramping and splashing of the mud in the streets as the workmen hastened to their work frequently broke the slumbers of the non-workers in the early morning. It brings to our minds the little poem found in the McGuffey's Reader:

"The lark is up to meet the sun  
The bee is on the wing  
The ant its labor has begun  
The woods with music ring."

Thank God for such men as "The McGuffeys" who, being inspired by God, gave to the youth of the land through their series of readers in our public schools such a wonderful vision of life.

As the East side populated rapidly, there arose a spirit of jealousy between the East and West side of the creek. So prevalent it was for several years that it began to enter into every movement for the advancement of our village. Two factions arose and divided the people. This situation prevailed for several years, and was affecting the progress of our town. Not until 1902 was this unpleasant situation overcome. In the laying out of the McKeever, Burley, and Moore farms into city lots on the West side and new business enterprises being established, the people realized that any movement to perpetuate this spirit of rivalry between the East and West side of Crooksville only dwarfed the progress and prosperity of the entire city. The hatchet was buried and a united citizenship prevailed, and we marched forward. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord build the city, the watchman walketh but in vain."

### A PERIOD OF INACTIVITY

From 1880 to 1885 Crooksville was apparently satisfied with one room school house on the East side of the creek and one place of worship, the Methodist Church, on the

West side of the creek; one general store, post office, freight and ticket office on the East side; grocery and ice cream parlor on the West side. Not even a brick side walk, just a mud street. Practically every one had a pig pen, chicken coop, and cow stable, many horse stables, outside toilets, and no basements. Rats by the thousands, flies and mosquitoes swarmed undisturbed, no screen doors or windows to cross their paths, yet there lived in Crooksville at that time, some of the best people the world could produce. The atmosphere was not always the purest, neither did the roses send forth their fragrance at all times. There was no doctor to feel one's pulse or look at their tongues, yet we were healthy, happy, and contented just drifting along apparently without vision, awaiting for something to happen that would inspire us to greater activity and more noble attributes.

From 1876, the year in which Burley and Winter took over the business of Howerth and Bowers, they continued to operate a general store. In the year of 1881, they sold their stock of merchandise to Mr. Asbury Garlinger who continued the business very successfully for one year, at which time he sold the stock back to Burley & Winter. It was at this time that business was flourishing in the Sunday Creek Valley, and Mr. Garlinger left Crooksville, located in Hemlock, Ohio, opened a very fine general store, and soon became one of the leading merchants in southern Perry County.

### BUSINESS REVIVED

From 1882 to 1885 there was quite a demand for stoneware of all kinds, especially milk pans, large jars, jugs, churns, fruit cans, and covered fruit jars. The small potteries could not supply the demand. The Burley, Winter and Brown steam pottery sprang into existence.—In 1885, just at the psychological moment. They could produce more stoneware in their plant than twelve of the small potteries combined and make a better quality of merchandise at less cost of production. The phenomenal success of these pioneer potters demanded the expansion of their business, and within a few years they crossed the street and built their major plant, doubling their capacity. Later they

built the Keystone Pottery, followed by The John W. Burley plant. All these plants were operated under the successful management of W. N. Burley and Wilson Winter. Mr. W. H. Brown retired in 1892, associating himself with the Star Stoneware Company as their General Superintendent, Mr. Jep Young succeeding Mr. Brown as General Superintendent of the Burley and Winter Pottery. As Mr. Burley and Mr. Winter grew in years and necessarily became less active in the management of the business, John G. Burley was elected as General Manager. The business continued under his management until 1937, at which time liquidation was effected. The high principles of honesty and integrity on which the business was established and conducted for more than one-half a century won for these two gentlemen the unquestionable confidence of the people of Crooksville and throughout the entire pottery trade in which their products were known.

The buildings and equipment of this plant were sold to local business men in order to save an industry for Crooksville at some future date. In 1942 they sold this property to Maurice A. Knight Son's Co. of Akron, Ohio. Maurice A. Knight, Manufacturer of Acid-proof Chemical Stoneware and Chemical Equipment, started in business in Akron, Ohio in 1906. All Knight products are used chiefly in industry.

New products developed during the depression, such as new ceramic shapes and several synthetic resins began to crowd the Akron factory in 1940. It was decided to move out several machine-made ceramic items where kiln capacity and floor space was available. In the spring of 1942, Edmund H. Knight and Maurice A. Knight, Jr. moved and started manufacture of these items in Crooksville, Ohio. The Crooksville operation is known as Maurice A. Knight Son's Co. All products made were used extensively in many vital industrial plants during the war.

In 1889, Burley and Winter moved their General Store from Railroad Street into the Odd Fellows building on Main Street. A few years later they built a new building just across the street from the Odd Fellows building into which they moved their stock of merchandise, continuing the business until September 1901, at which time they sold





Maurice A. Knight Son's Co.

their entire stock of merchandise to Lewis and Granville Springer, who moved into Crooksville from Hemlock, Ohio. The Springers did a thriving business until 1903, when they associated themselves with the pottery industry, disposing of their store at that time.

After the death of Mrs. Jacob Reed in the year of 1884, Mason T. Moore bought all the land owned by Jacob Reed at his death on the west side of the Pennsylvania Railroad consisting of 92 5/100 acres. Because of certain provisions of his will or to keep within the law of the statute, it became necessary for the three living maiden daughters to sign the deed as well as the executors of the estate; viz., Rebecca Reed, Rachael Reed, and Mary Reed. This land being in section 20, Township 14, Range 14. At this time, Mr. Moore was living on his hill farm about three miles west of Crooksville between Saltillo and McLuney. It was his plan in buying this land to build a modern home thereon, which he did, and in 1890 he moved his family into his new home to spend the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Moore, as well as their family were very happy in their new location, and were most cordially received by the residents of Crooksville. For many years they would spend much time sitting on their front porch watching the town improve and expand, factories going up, new railroad crossing the Pennsylvania tracks, making its way from Shawnee to Fultonham over the hills and high trestles through tunnels, viewing the new highway connecting Crooksville and Roseville and at the same time watching the electrical line making its way into the village. They saw new school buildings rising up in proportion to the increasing population, and could see the hundreds of school children making their way to these houses of education. They watched the new church buildings one after another pointing their spires heavenward, a reminder that God was in our midst. These days were happy days for Mr. and Mrs. Moore until one day in the year of 1903, Mrs. Moore took her departure never to return. Many years before Mr. Moore moved to Crooksville he imported a pair of deer from the mountains of Virginia and corralled them in a large park that he had built for that purpose. Many of his friends would visit his home to see this herd which had

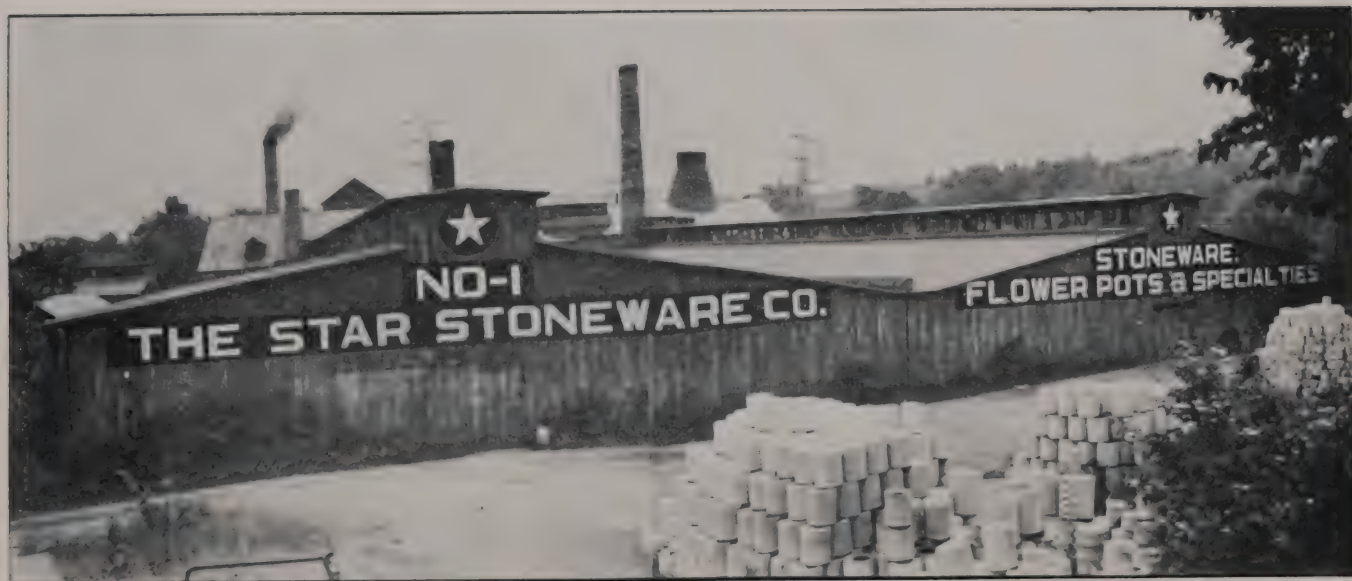
grown to 27 head. In moving to Crooksville, he built another park in front of his home overlooking Crooksville, and transferred the herd into this park. One by one they broke camp and scattered over the country until the park was completely deserted. He extended West Main Street from Buckeye Street up to the foot of the hill leading to his residence, sold lots on each side of the street for residential purposes. The east side of the cemetery, the West School Building, the Dailey and Mullen homes, all the homes on each side of Cemetery Street, and over as far as Burley Run (excepting the property on North Buckeye Street). The Ohio Power Building, Cannon Brothers Brick Building, and the High School campus grounds were built on a part of his farm. He died at his home in the year of 1917.

In the year of 1890, when the Columbus and Eastern Railroad built the section of their line between East Fultonham and Shawnee, crossing the Pennsylvania lines at Crooksville, everything was on a standstill from a business standpoint. But when the steam shovels, wheel scrapers, bridge and trestle building equipment was unloaded on the right-of-way and the dynamite made the earth tremble on Tunnel Hill, new life came forth, "The wilderness and the solitary places was made glad and the desert rejoiced and blossomed as the rose. The weak hands and the feeble knees were made strong. The parched ground became a pool and the thirsty land became springs of water." The name of Reed Station was removed from over the depot door of the Pennsylvania station and replaced with the name of Crooksville. No longer did the brakeman cry out, "Our next stop will be 'Reed Station'" but instead he said, "Our next stop is 'Crooksville.'" Reed Station became past history and Crooksville became the center of the pottery industry. The demand for stoneware and stoneware specialties was greater than the supply.

### THE CROOKSVILLE STONEWARE COMPANY

John M. French, J. J. Hill, S. H. Brown, W. N. Burley, Wilson Winter, G. E. McKeever, and others met together and said, "Let's organize and build another pottery." The hat was passed, the necessary cash dropped in, and the Crooksville Stoneware Company was born. The first two





The Star Stoneware Co.

years of operation proved that the above gentlemen had not erred in their judgment, yet the demand for stoneware products continued greater than the supply.

### THE STAR STONEWARE COMPANY

In 1892, another meeting of the stoneware interests was called, and the situation thoroughly discussed and due consideration given as to the advisability of greater production. A decision was unanimously reached that another modern plant should be built. Enthusiasm ran high, an organization was effected, and the Star Stoneware Company sprang into existence with the following men as charter stockholders: W. N. Burley, President; J. J. Moore, Secretary; J. J. Hull, General Manager; W. H. Brown, Superintendent; Wilson Winter, J. M. French, John McKeever, Charles Watts, J. S. Hull, Jas. G. Bell, Gilbert McKeever, S. H. Brown, James Watts, Davis Beck, E. I. Bennett, A. E. Hull. Mr. Brown withdrew his interests from the Burley, Winter and Brown Pottery Company and held his position with The Star Stoneware Company until his health failed him. He was succeeded by Chas. C. Coulter who ably filled the position until his death in 1940. Mr. Coulter had a broad knowledge of the practical end of the pottery business, and was so recognized throughout the Crooksville pottery district. Mr. Hull continued in his position as General Manager until his death in 1924 at which time he held the controlling interest in the business. Mr. Hull was a very successful business man and a Christian gentleman. He was succeeded in his position by his son, Floyd Hull, who is the successful manager of this business at the present time. I am told that Gilbert McKeever is the only stockholder whose shares of stock have never changed hands. Almost 50 years a stockholder. This Company started operation on \$10,000 paid up in Capital Stock. Still in operation, their success speaks for their ability and integrity.

### THE DIAMOND STONEWARE COMPANY

In October 1892, John F. Stoneburner, N. H. Stoneburner, Henry Woodruff, George W. Spring, W. E. Brown, Harry Moore, and George P. Tedrow met together in the



The Diamond Novelty Pottery



store room of John F. Stoneburner on North Buckeye Street. John said, "Gentlemen, why not another pottery in Crooksville?" Convincing these men of the possibilities of one more stoneware plant and its success, the organization was effected, and the above men put up the cash, and the Diamond Stoneware Company became a reality. This Company was not a stock company, it was a partnership company and John F. Stoneburner was made the General Manager. For ten years the business was successfully managed by John. In 1902, he sold his interests to Henry Woodruff and George Spring. Henry Woodruff becoming the General Manager and George Spring the Superintendent. The business was successfully continued under the new management for several years when George Spring bought Henry Woodruff's interest and became the sole owner of the business. He continued the operation of the pottery for several years, closed out his stock of stoneware, took over the lumber yard of the Snyder Flautt Lumber Company, located on the property owned by Mr. Spring, and the Diamond Pottery was converted into a planing mill, and the sign of the Spring Lumber Company hung over the office door. Mr. Spring conducted a very successful lumber business for many years. Harold Riggle, a grandson of Mr. Spring's became associated with him in the lumber business, after his graduation from High School, but in 1943 he entered the Armed Services of his country, causing Mr. Spring to dispose of his stock and equipment.

In 1945 Mr. Spring sold his plant to the Wiseman brothers, local dairymen who are now engaged in installing the most modern equipment for the production of clay novelty ware to be known as The Diamond Novelty Pottery.

John Stoneburner, after disposing of his interest in the Diamond Stoneware Company, located in Logan, Ohio, organized the Logan Pottery Company and was made General Manager, which position he held until 1905, at which time he sold his interest and accepted a position as manager of the Orange County Irrigation Company, Orange, Texas. He remained with the above company until 1909 when he accepted a position as manager of The Port Arthur Planing Company. In 1912, Mr. Stoneburner and his son Frank established the Stoneburner Electric Company at Port



The Watt Pottery Co.

Arthur, Texas. It was the writer's pleasure to visit John at Port Arthur several years ago for a few hours, and I am sure he has made a great success of his business and is ranked among the foremost business men of his city. Today, he has retired from active service, and is enjoying the fruits of his labor, his son, Frank, very successfully succeeding him.

### THE GLOBE STONEWARE COMPANY

In the year of 1901, W. A. Watts, Jep Young, and Chester Tatman put their heads together and started out to organize another stoneware pottery. They interested such men as S. H. Brown, A. E. Hull, W. B. Cosgrave, J. A. Watts, William Dailey, Alex Brown, W. A. Cannon and others. A meeting of the prospective stockholders was called by W. A. Watts, the necessary shares of stock subscribed, and the Globe Stoneware Company was organized. A board of directors elected (the names not known). This board of Directors organized by electing the following officers: W. B. Cosgrave, President; A. E. Hull, General Manager; W. A. Watts, Secretary; S. H. Brown, Treasurer; and Jep Young, Superintendent. The Globe Stoneware Company was a success from the beginning, but not all the interested parties could see alike. Some differences arose, and in 1905, A. E. Hull, W. A. Watts, and Jep Young withdrew from the Globe Stoneware Company, organized the A. E. Hull Pottery Company. They built a new plant at the north end of China Street which was known as The A. E. Hull Pottery Company with A. E. Hull, President and General Manager; W. A. Watts, Secretary-Treasurer, and Jep Young, Superintendent. There were no questions as to the success of this new organization headed by three young men who possessed experience, ability, and character with a determination to win—attracted the attention of other pottery men who were glad to join their organization, viz., G. E. McKeever, J. J. Hull, W. H. Dunn, and Floyd Hull. After Messrs. Hull, Watts, and Young severed their connection with the Globe Stoneware Company, W. B. Cosgrave became President and John E. Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager, and Albert Aichele, Superintendent. In 1906, their plant was completely destroyed by fire. The old wooden struc-



ture was replaced with a modern brick building, and the business continued until 1919, at which time Zane W. Burley bought the entire plant and equipment, operating the business successfully until 1922, when he sold out to Harry & Thomas Watt. Since then this plant has been known as the Watt Pottery Co. Harry Watt is President and General Manager; Loren Watt, Superintendent; and Iliff Watt, Secretary and Treasurer. Since taking possession of this business in 1922, the plant has been enlarged, equipped with tunnel kilns, conveyors, and other modern equipment, enabling them to double their capacity. The Watt Pottery Company has the neatest, most modern, and successfully operated stoneware plant in the Crooksville district. The Watts should all live in Crooksville. They are not only good potters, but enterprising business men and would be an asset to the citizenship of Crooksville.

After Zane Burley sold his plant in Crooksville, he moved his family to Zanesville, organized the Burley Clay Products Company, built a modern plant in South Zanesville, and is doing a successful and prosperous business.

### THE CROOKSVILLE CHINA COMPANY

Crooksville was rapidly becoming the center of the stoneware industry in this section of the State of Ohio. In discussing the situation, a certain business man of Crooksville suggested that it might be well not to confine all the pottery plants to the making of jars, jugs, milk pans, and fruit cans, but suggested, "Why not organize another company, build another plant and make a more diversified line of clay products." The suggestion met with favor and the matter was presented to a few men who were in a position to give financial support to such a project, who became interested and pledged their cooperation. It was decided to manufacture a line of art ware such as vases, flower pots, jardinieres, and novelties, and on the 9th day of January, 1902, S. H. Brown, W. H. Brown, W. J. Tague, A. P. Tague, and Guy E. Crooks, petitioned the Secretary of State, asking permission to organize a corporate body in accordance with the general laws of the State of Ohio, under the name of The Crooksville Art Pottery Company, to manufacture a line of art ware, stoneware or queensware. The authority

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The Crooksville China Co.

was so granted, and on the 20th day of January, 1902, the first stockholders meeting was held, the articles of incorporation accepted, and the following men were elected to serve as directors: O. F. McKinney, P. W. Newlon, J. M. French, W. H. Brown, S. H. Brown, J. L. Bennett, and E. L. Taylor. The above named persons immediately met together, received the oath of office, and proceeded to organize by electing the following officers: J. L. Bennett, President; J. M. French, Vice-President; and Guy E. Crooks, Secretary and Treasurer and General Manager.

It was the consensus of the opinion of the Board of Directors after making a very careful investigation of the dinnerware potteries in East Liverpool that a change should be made in the line adopted ("ART Ware") and instead make a general line of "Dinnerware", and by unanimous vote of the Board, the President declared the motion legal and effective. The articles of incorporation were so amended and the name of The Art Pottery Company was changed to read "The Crooksville China Co." Under some difficulty a suitable site for the plant was secured, plans and specifications drawn, contract let to the W. H. Showers Building Company for the building of the plant. Ground was broken in March, 1902 under the supervision of S. H. Brown. It was found that it would be necessary to employ some practical man who was familiar with the manufacturing end of this branch of the pottery business. A man by the name of Wm. H. Tritt of Sebring, Ohio, was recommended and employed as General Superintendent, entering upon his duties August, 1902. The first piece of ware was made in the following November, and in February 1903, the first shipment of the products of The Crooksville China Company was delivered to the Pennsylvania Railroad for shipment. Mr. Tritt proved to be a capable and trusted man, remaining with this company until 1910, at which time he resigned his position, moving to Niles, Ohio, where he organized The Tritt China Company, becoming the General Manager of this concern. He remained in Niles until his death which took place November 25, 1940.

The Crooksville China Company has been in steady operation since 1902 (almost forty years). During these years the plant has been expanded, the capacity quadrupled,



giving at the present time employment to over 300 people, under the one President, J. L. Bennett, one Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager, Guy E. Crooks. (At this time, June 19, 1941, we note the passing of Mr. J. L. Bennett, our President with deepest sorrow of heart.) There has never been a meeting of either the stockholders or directors since the organization of this incorporation that Mr. Bennett did not preside, neither were the records of these meetings recorded by any other person except Guy E. Crooks. Mr. Bennett's loyalty, counsel, and cooperation won for him the highest esteem and confidence of the writer and all others associated with him in this organization.

Since all my time has been given to the management of this business since its organization, permit me to name some of the people with whom it has been my privilege to be associated. The following men have served as Directors: J. L. Bennett, O. F. McKinney, J. M. French, P. W. Newlon, J. F. Selby, S. H. Brown, W. H. Brown, E. L. Taylor, Eli A. Palmer, S. L. Pitcock, H. O. Brown, and G. W. DeLong. All of the above named men finished their work and rest from their labors. Those still living and constituting our present Board are Dr. J. G. McDougal, Harry J. Bennett, Earl R. Crooks, Karl E. Brown, Frank E. Bennett, and Guy E. Crooks. Gordon A. Weese served out the unexpired term of H. O. Brown, retiring from the Directorate at the close of the business of 1940 at his own request, Frank E. Bennett succeeding him. Dr. J. G. McDougal and the writer are the only persons living of the original stockholders who are members of the Board of Directors at the present time. Dr. McDougal was elected as a Director in 1908, the writer in 1917.

Since 1912, C. L. Pitcock has filled the position of Superintendent of the manufacturing end of the business. In 1914, C. P. Stotler was made foreman of the Clay Department, and Paul P. Boring was given charge of the Decorating Department. In 1923 the business had grown to such proportions that it was impossible for one person to oversee all the work in connection with the General Management of the business, and the Board of Directors unanimously elected my son, Earl R. Crooks as Assistant Manager and S. L. Pitcock Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. Earl R.

Crooks is still holding his position and serving in this capacity at the present time. S. L. Pitcock continued in his position, together as Bookkeeper and Credit Manager until his death in March 1937, W. O. Dunn succeeding him. All the above men are still holding their position and serving in the various capacities except S. L. Pitcock, deceased. Since the death of J. L. Bennett, his son, Harry J. Bennett has been elected to succeed his father as President.

### THE ACME POTTERY COMPANY

In the year of 1903, a number of business men met together and enthusiastically decided that Crooksville could support another dinnerware pottery. Headed by Lewis Springer, Granville Springer, J. J. Hull, W. H. Dunn, W. A. Showers, and A. E. Smith, their financial support with others was pledged and the above named men petitioned the Secretary of State, asking permission to organize a corporate body in accordance with the general laws of the State of Ohio under the name of The Acme Pottery Co. to manufacture a line of semi-porcelain plain and decorated dinnerware. The authority was granted and charter received. A meeting of the stockholders was held, a Board of Directors elected, and organization affected by electing J. J. Hull, President, and Lewis Springer, Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager. Location for plant, plans and specifications drawn for a six kiln plant, contract let, and completion of plant was speedily effected. Thomas McNicol of East Liverpool, Ohio, a practical pottery man was secured as General Superintendent. Within a few months this company had its products on the market and business was humming in Crooksville. There were a lot of stoneware potters in Crooksville, but no skilled dinnerware mechanics. Skilled mechanics had to be imported from the East Liverpool pottery district. It required over two hundred skilled men to serve the two dinnerware plants, besides about the same number of unskilled men and women. The housing situation was very critical at that time. We will deal with this problem later.

The Acme Pottery continued to operate successfully, turning out a very fine grade of semi-porcelain dinnerware until 1907, at which time they consolidated with A. E. Hull



The A. E. Hull Pottery Co.



Pottery Company, discontinuing the manufacture of dinnerware, confining the two plants entirely into the manufacture of stoneware and stoneware specialties under the name of A. E. Hull Pottery Co. Mr. A. E. Hull became the General Manager; W. A. Watts, Secretary and Treasurer; and Jep Young, Superintendent. After the death of Mr. A. E. Hull in 1930, A. E. Hull, Jr. succeeded his father in the management of the business until 1937 when he resigned to accept the management of The Shawnee Pottery Company located at Zanesville, Ohio; Gerald Watts succeeding him. The other present officers of the Company are, L. A. Springer, Vice President; E. D. Young, Secretary and Treasurer, and J. B. Hull, Sales Manager.

### THE CROOKSVILLE POTTERY COMPANY

The Crooksville Pottery Company was organized in 1903 for the manufacture of stoneware located on the East side of Creek, and known as the Sand Bank Pottery. The promoters of this organization were E. L. Taylor, W. B. Gulick, Augustus Printz, and others. E. L. Taylor was made General Manager and Secretary and Treasurer. Augustus Printz was made Superintendent. Their plant was modern in every respect. After a short time of successful operation, E. L. Taylor sold his interests to Guy and Harry Cook, Floyd and John Hull and others. The management shifted to The Star Stoneware Company, the stockholders of The Star Stoneware Company having purchased the controlling interest in the business. Due to the decline in the general stoneware business, several years ago this plant was closed and remained idle until 1938. The plant was then purchased by the Ferro Enamel Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio.

This new Company started business in 1936 as a division of the Ferro Enamel Corporation of Cleveland to manufacture pottery saggers and refractory specialties for the ceramic industry. The Company took over what was known as the old Sand Bank Plant, later the Crooksville Pottery Company, which has been idle for several years and, hence, brought to Crooksville a new and welcome industry, and is now known as the Ceramic Supply Co.

The Ferro Enamel Corporation is one of the largest



The Ceramic Supply Co.

manufacturers of pottery frits and porcelain enamel in the world, having plants in five foreign countries, in addition to its plants in Canada and the United States.

Since its organization, the Ceramic Supply division has more than doubled its volume of business, and consequently has rebuilt and enlarged the old Sand Bank Plant into a modern factory.

Members of many of Crooksville's oldest families are employed in this plant, continuing the same line of skilled work in which they were brought up through family tradition in some of Crooksville's oldest potteries. The citizens of Crooksville are unanimous in their praise of the excellent progress this new branch of the Ceramic Industry has already made since its location in our pottery city.

This ends a brief review of the pottery industry of Crooksville up to the year of 1942.

### HOUSING SITUATION

Let us return to 1902, a period when the housing situation became very critical. Suitable building locations were scarce, and the demand was great. A few individuals bought several acres of land of the late Samuel McKeever located between the county road passing in front of the McKeever home and the plant of The Crooksville China Co. These men had this section of land surveyed into town lots, plotted and offered for sale which was known as the W. B. Gulick addition to Crooksville. The lots were offered for sale, and within a few months practically all the lots on Taylor, McKeever, and Vaughn Streets were sold and new homes springing up. However, this did not solve the situation. The demand increased for new homes. The farm of 72 acres owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, widow of the late James Moore, which is now the terrace addition of the West side of Crooksville was the only solution to the housing problem, yet Mrs. Moore was so attached to her home and farm on which she had lived for many years that no monetary offer for her home enticed her to dispose of it until the new neighbors in the W. B. Gulick addition began to cross her farm and destroy her fences and other valuables connected with her home. Then and not until then did Mrs. Moore change her mind.



The pastor of the Methodist Church, Reverend Benjamin Thomas, was making one of his pastoral visitations one morning and dropped in at the home of Mrs. Moore. In their conversation on spiritual matters, Mrs. Moore mentioned the fact that she could live a happy life in her home beside one town, but she could not live at peace between two towns, and she had decided to sell her farm. Reverend Thomas, knowing how acute the housing situation was at that time, immediately contacted one of his members, informing him of his conversation with Mrs. Moore, and insisting that he go immediately and buy the farm. This man followed Reverend Thomas' advice, called on Mrs. Moore, secured an option on the farm for 30 days, organized a company of a few business men, bought the farm, laid out the entire farm into town lots, streets, and alleys, and within thirty days after the lots were offered for sale, \$20,000 worth of lots had been sold and the saw and hammer could be heard in every direction. This farm is now the terrace addition to Crooksville. In less than 3 years, the population jumped from 1,000 persons to 3,000. P. L. Carpenter of Triadelphia, Ohio, was a citizen of Crooksville at that time, and one of the promoters of the above project, and proved himself to be a real estate agent of no small ability.

### THE SPIRIT OF PROGRESS SPREAD

The Pennsylvania Railroad at this time was running 4 passenger trains daily East and West, and the Zanesville & Western Railroad, two passenger trains, North and South, daily through Crooksville. The expansion of the pottery manufacturing business had increased the passenger and freight traffic with the railroads until their facilities for handling this increased business was inadequate. A suitable location for new passenger and freight depots with sufficient ground for switching purposes could not be located. As a certain man was walking along the Pennsylvania lines thinking seriously about this problem, he visionized a stone wall 12 feet high, reaching from the north end of the Pennsylvania bridge along the creek bank to the west end of the wagon bridge on Main Street and a 12 foot fill along this wall about 100 yards or more over to where the

opera house now stands on Main Street; thence north along the Pennsylvania Railroad track for several hundred yards. This would make ample space for passenger and freight depots, driveways, and switches. W. B. Gulick was agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at that time. This man told his vision to Mr. Gulick who passed it on to Mr. Ray, the engineer of the Railroad, who immediately made a drawing, delivered it to the officials at Pittsburgh, Penna. for their approval. The land at that time was owned by the Diamond Stoneware Company, Mr. Henry Woodruff being the General Manager of the Company. The proposition appealed to Mr. Woodruff. The location was approved by the Railroad company, and the deal closed. The Zanesville and Western Railroad Company immediately closed a deal with the Diamond Stoneware Company for a strip of land joining their right-of-way on the east side of their main line on which they built a new passenger and freight depot, extended their switching facilities, driveways, and warehouses being accessible from West Main Street. This proved to be the most practical locations for both railroads and afforded great convenience to the public. Crooksville at that time supplied the Pennsylvania Railroad with more passenger travel outgoing and inbound freight than any other point between Zanesville and Lancaster. The Zanesville and Western Railroad Company's business increased daily. At that time there was no other mode of travel and passenger coaches were usually filled to capacity, both as the trains arrived and departed from Crooksville. Besides a full car of groceries and provisions of all kinds were set off daily on the siding for the Crooksville merchants from the wholesale business houses of Zanesville. Cannon Brothers and Mason Spring were busy daily delivering freight with their drays to the local merchants. The first man to enter the draying business was Mr. E. L. German. He owned a one horse dray pulled by a large dun horse named "Jack". He later sold his outfit to Claude Cannon, who built up a very successful draying business. Besides the large quantities of groceries and provisions coming into Crooksville to supply the homes with food and other necessities of life sold by our merchants, there were six large beer and ice storage houses along the railroad yards kept

filled with cool beer for the convenience of the seventeen legalized saloons that were doing a lively business at that time. You could hear the rattle of the beer wagons and the splashing of the horses' feet day and night. The only paved street in the village was South Buckeye. For 4 long years (Kid) Longley from 1904 to 1908 was our honored and trusted Marshal. He walked the streets day and night, and no man dared to molest our homes or make us afraid. During his entire term as Marshal, he never found it necessary to use his mace. If someone became boisterous or unruly from overimbibing Kid said, "Come and go with me," and he obeyed.

### THE RAILROADS REACHED THEIR PEAK

In the year of 1905, a few capitalists of Wheeling, W. Va. were seeking investments for their money. They came to Zanesville where they became interested in the business activity in the Zanesville district and secured rights-of-way for the building of an electrical railroad from Zanesville to Crooksville. When all preliminary work had been completed, the grades made, bridges built, rails laid, trolley poles set, cable wires strung, the juice was turned on from the power house at Moxahala Park and the electric passenger and freight cars came moving into Crooksville. Every hour all day long from 4 o'clock in the morning until 12 o'clock at night, the Southeastern Electrical Company was at our service with well equipped passenger cars, besides two freight deliveries daily. The competition with the steam railroads was quite noticeable, and within a few months the Southeastern Electrical Company had captured almost 100% of all the passenger and freight business between Zanesville and Crooksville. For a number of years, the electrical people did a thriving business. In the year of 1920, the state highway department started to improve Route 75 between Moxahala Park and Roseville. The work was completed some two years later. In 1922 the paving of Route 75 was continued to Crooksville. A bus line was established by John Brooks between Zanesville and Crooksville. The trucks got busy and made store door deliveries of all inbound freight to the merchants and potteries, at the same time picking up all outbound freight except full car



load shipments which only the railroads could handle. In 1922 the Southeastern Electrical Company took down their trolley line and poles, pulled up their tracks and discontinued their service. The railroads discontinued their passenger service and since that time the bus companies and personally owned automobiles have had full control of passenger traffic in and out of Crooksville. While the truck lines are robbing the railroads of many tons of freight, nevertheless the railroads are very busy at this time with carload shipments to all parts of the country. Can it be possible that within the next two decades that the airplanes will be so far advanced that they will rob the trucks, busses, and automobiles of all the business and pleasure they are supplying the world today? Will all the millions of tons of freight that the railroads and trucks are moving over the country be transported by large mammoth freighters through the air from city to city and from nation to nation? Will the time come when airplanes will be built at a price that it will be possible for every person that is a wage earner to own his own plane, work 40 hours each week, and on Friday night with his family, fly across the continent, spend the week end and be back home on Monday morning ready to report for work? Can it be possible that within the next century or less our great highway system will be as useless as the grades are today that were built 50 years ago across the country on which the interurban cars moved with such great speed that was of such great convenience and usefulness to the public. Let those of us who have lived three score years or more look back to our boyhood days and answer these questions.

### WHEN INCORPORATED

It was in 1894 that the population of Crooksville had grown to approximately 800 souls. It was in the days of "Local Option" when a township could be dry territory but an incorporated town in the township could vote wet and be within the law. Crooksville had no saloons at that time due to the fact that Crooksville was in Harrison Township, and was not incorporated. At certain periods, especially on pay days, a portion of the population became unruly and there were no officers to control the situation. The

sentiment was strong in favor of incorporation. The citizens took the necessary steps under the law, received a Charter from the State of Ohio, called an election May 1894, elected their officers, and Crooksville became an incorporated town with the following officers: James F. DeLong, Mayor; E. L. Taylor, Clerk; W. A. Brown, Treasurer; C. L. Tatman, Marshal; G. C. Allen, Street Commissioner. Councilmen were H. D. Woodruff, G. W. Printz, A. E. Nelson, E. S. Oliver, J. C. Sowers, and P. E. Carpenter. The little city at once began to take on city airs by introducing and passing such laws and regulations as in their judgment was for the betterment of the citizens of which they were representing. Many streets were improved by straightening, grading, building cinder side walks, conscientiously making the small amount of money that was at their command and would serve the greatest good possible. It would require much work and space to look up the records and give the names of all the officials of each Administration who have served the public in the 48 years of our incorporate life, yet it is sufficient to say that with very few exceptions our city has been managed by men of honesty, intelligence, and of good business judgment. Mistakes have been made, we will admit, but compare our records with surrounding incorporated cities as to age, population, improvements, manufacturing, industries, general business, schools, churches, and citizenship, and what not, we must say without egotism or braggadocia. Crooksville has been well administered, is the judgment of the writer. Our present public officials are as follows: W. C. Mercer, Mayor; James Driggs, Clerk; Emerson Wagner, Solicitor; John Brown, Marshal; Clarence Heskett, Treasurer; Charles Gossman, Street Commissioner. Councilmen as follows: McKinley Brannon, Herman Bennett, Carl Brown, John Hayman, Patric Sherlock, and John Wise. At this time, it is the beginning of their terms. We shall be glad to trust these men as we have their predecessors in past years, and hope and believe they will do their best to make Crooksville a bigger, better, and more prosperous Crooksville than ever before. The following named persons have filled the Office of Mayor: James F. DeLong, William (Kid) Davis, E. S. Oliver, John E. Taylor, Sherman Grimes, Clinton Dean, Delbert Goff, E. U. Tatman, E. E.

Brannon, W. A. Lentz, Clarence (Kid) Longley, Joshua Sowers, Dr. A. R. Vosper, Reverend T. M. Ogg, Ross Hoops, and William C. Mercer (present Mayor).

Following are the names of some of the men who served as Marshal: Charles Bainter, Caleb Tatman, E. U. Tatman, Clarence E. Longley, Harry Ross, Wm. Luster, Fred Reed, William (Skinny) Brown, E. L. German, Ernie Wilson, Wm. Howerth, Calvin Young, Thomas Maxwell, Mike McGovern, Laury Caton, J. C. Wilson, Charles Baker, Clair Butts, and John Brown (Present Marshal) 48 years an incorporated city.

### OUR STREETS

In 1895, a large tonnage of coal and clay was being hauled from Snake's Hollow to the potteries. South Buckeye Street became almost impassable. The City Council passed an ordinance to pave this street with crushed slag from the coal mines. The contract was let and work began. The contractor stated to the residents of this street that a slag street would not stand up under the heavy traffic that the street would be subjected to and advised that if all the property holders would sign a petition to finish the street with large paving brick, it would be done without any additional legislation, and named a very low price per square foot in addition to the cost of slag. This proposition appealed to the property holders and Willie (Skinny) Brown immediately circulated the petition. The result was that 100% of the property holders signed the petition and the street was paved. For 46 years this street has been in constant use and is today, with few exceptions, the best paved street in our town.

At that time there was not a town in Perry County that had a brick paved street. Our neighbor village of Roseville could not boast of paved streets, yet Crooksville was not satisfied with just one paved street. The residents of other streets, one after another commenced paving until today all the principal streets have brick or concrete streets besides all the side streets that are not paved with concrete or brick have hard surface finish with dust proof coating. There are quite a few property owners on some of the paved streets who have never laid side walks in front of their



residences, which, if done, would increase the value of their property far more than the cost of the improvement. We have at the present time, 13½ miles of improved streets according to speedometer. Registration taken by Victor E. Boring, approved by William Mercer, our incoming Mayor, and should be correct.

### CROOKSVILLE BANK

Until 1902, Crooksville had never had a bank. All merchants, manufacturers, business concerns, and individuals who did a banking business were compelled to open accounts in the banks of Zanesville, Roseville, or New Lexington. This they did with great inconvenience and risk. W. N. Burley, Wilson Winter, S. H. Brown, J. M. French, E. I. Bennett and others counseled together and decided that Crooksville should have a bank of its own and that J. L. Bennett of McLuney, Ohio, then operating a coal mine, general store, and farm at that place, should be invited to join in the organization and become the Cashier. Accordingly, Mr. Bennett was approached on the subject and already being a stockholder, director and president of The Crooksville China Company, the proposition appealed to him. He joined the above men, assisted in the organization, subscribed to the Articles of Incorporation, and received authority from the State Banking Department of Ohio to open The Crooksville Bank, with W. N. Burley as President; S. H. Brown, Vice President; J. L. Bennett, Cashier; W. N. Burley, Wilson Winter, S. H. Brown, J. L. Bennett, and Ephraim Bennett as Directors. The doors of the bank were opened to the public December 1902 in the Felix Hughes Building, and the cash came rolling in. Thomas Winter was Assistant Cashier and Miss Sarah Burns, Clerk and Bookkeeper.

The Board of Directors immediately purchased a suitable location, built a modern business block and moved the bank from the Hughes Building into its new home. Since that time, the interior of the bank has been remodeled, equipped with new furniture, tile floors, burglar and fire proof safe with time locks, safety deposit boxes and burglar alarm clock. This organization commanded the confidence of the public and was a success from the beginning.



The Crooksville Bank.

At the death of Mr. Burley in 1932, J. L. Bennett was elected President and Chas. M. Bennett, Cashier. J. L. Bennett continued as President until his death June 19th, 1942, John M. Hull succeeding him. The present officers are as follows: John M. Hull, President; Guy E. Crooks, Vice-President; Charles M. Bennett, Cashier; Ralph A. Cope, Assistant Cashier; Miss Sarah Burns, Assistant Cashier, and Miss Dorothy Sowers, Assistant Cashier. Directors are as follows: John M. Hull, Charles M. Bennett, Edwin M. Pitcock, W. A. Showers, and Guy E. Crooks.

### THE AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK

The American Savings and Loan Company of Zanesville, Ohio, opened a branch office in Crooksville in the year of 1908 with Mr. Frank Reed in charge. At that time, many homes were being built, and this branch did quite a thriving business until 1931. A number of business men of Crooksville organized, took over the Zanesville branch, and received authority from the State Banking Department of Ohio to conduct a general commercial banking business under the name of The Crooksville Savings Bank. I do not recall the names of all the persons who became interested, however, the following persons constituted the officers: C. M. King, President; W. A. Brown, Vice-President; E. L. Taylor, Cashier. Directors: C. M. King, W. A. Brown, E. L. Taylor, Howard Bowers, John Crider, Curtis Wilson, and S. L. Pitcock.

The bank was located in the Joshua Sowers building on East Main Street and did quite a satisfactory and prosperous business for several years. The depression that spread over the country in 1930 made it impossible for two banks to succeed in a manufacturing district such as Crooksville; hence by mutual agreement between the Crooksville Savings Bank and The Crooksville Bank Company, The Crooksville Bank Company took over the business of The Crooksville Savings Bank in 1931 and her charter was surrendered. At the time the bank suspended operation, Grover Stoneburner was the Cashier. He accepted a position with The Crooksville Bank Company, but later resigned his position to accept a position as Cashier of The First National Bank at Stockport, Ohio, which position he still holds.



### COOPERAGE PLANT

In the year of 1902, W. J. Day of East Liverpool, Ohio, came to Crooksville, purchased one acre of ground from Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, built a cooper shop and crate mill, entered into a contract with The Crooksville China Company to furnish all their casks, barrels, and crates, to be used in the packing of their product for shipping purposes. Mr. Day at that time made all his own packages with the assistance of one helper. One year later when The Acme Pottery Company put their plant into operation, Mr. Day increased the capacity of his plant sufficiently to supply them also with their cooperage. The population of Crooksville was increasing rapidly, and being anxious to expand his business, he conceived the idea of building an artificial ice plant in connection with his cooperage plant and supply Crooksville and Roseville with their ice. The coal mines had ruined the water in the creek and could not be used for domestic purposes any longer. Accordingly, he made an investigation of the artificial ice producing business and was convinced that quite a saving could be effected in combining the two enterprises in the way of machinery, labor and overhead. Hence he planned, built, and equipped a modern artificial ice plant, sank wells, and received the approval of the State Board of Health of the purity of the water, and put his plant into operation, supplying Crooksville, Roseville, and the surrounding community with a high grade of pure ice for many years. In 1940 Mr. Day died, his brother W. A. Day taking over the business, and he is successfully carrying on at the present time.

### OHIO FUEL GAS COMPANY

It is an old saying and a true one that, "It is an ill wind that blows nobody good." Up and until 1895 the most brilliant light that could be made in our homes after the shades of night had fallen over our little city was the old oil lamp. Many homes had beautiful lamps and chandeliers to ornament their homes, yet there was a dullness in the light from the oil lamp that could not be overcome, as well as unrestful to the eye. It was at that time that the Ohio Fuel Gas Company, or its predecessors came to Crooksville.

seeking a franchise to lay their pipe lines in our streets in order to give to the residents of Crooksville a great luxury such as they had never before enjoyed. As we remember, there was considerable protest by some of our residents brought about through fear of explosions, asphyxiation or some other catastrophe, for which natural gas was always held responsible. After some time of persistent effort on the part of the representatives of the gas company, the franchise was granted, contracts were entered into for lighting and heating business places and a few homes. The beautiful soft light, cleanliness of the heat, no more soot, ashes or smoke, soon overcame all prejudice and fears, and every property owner wanted gas piped into his home. No home is complete today that does not have natural gas. It has become a necessity. The Ohio Fuel Gas Company has the sole control of the supply. It is my recollection that the first gas brought in was from the Logan Field. Later as the demand became greater, the major source of supply came from West Virginia. As the oil and gas fields were developed in the Crooksville district, the Ohio Fuel became owners of all of the most promising wells.

In the year of 1896, the first kiln of stoneware was burned with gas. The result was so satisfactory that all the stoneware potteries discarded wood and coal fuel and equipped their kilns for gas. For a number of years, the streets of Crooksville were lighted with gas. Just how many miles of gas lines are buried in Crooksville or the total annual consumption is unknown to the writer. All other utility companies coming into Crooksville have cheerfully cooperated in supplying us with a very complete review of their business to be embodied in this record which we are trying to give to the citizens of Crooksville except the Ohio Fuel Gas Company, nevertheless in the years that they have served Crooksville, they have contributed much to its growth, comfort, and prosperity. We take this occasion to express our appreciation in behalf of the citizens of Crooksville and surrounding community. There came a time, however, when the Ohio Fuel Gas Company could not render the necessary service to the pottery manufacturers, and the domestic consumers at the same time. Being under the control of the Utility Commission, the Gas



The Industrial Gas Co.



Company was restricted in the distribution of their supply, consequently the domestic consumer was preferred over the manufacturers, and during the extreme cold weather, the manufacturers suffered great losses in the burning of their products; hence this situation developed a new field of opportunity for gas producers by separating the distribution of their commodity and selling the manufacturer only. It was this situation that gave birth to the Industrial Gas Corporation.

### INDUSTRIAL GAS COMPANY

Through the courtesy of Mr. George Archer, Superintendent of the Zanesville district of the Industrial Gas Corporation, we learned much regarding this Corporation which I desire to make a part of our history:

"Early in the present century, a few men engaged in drilling for crude oil and natural gas, came into southern Muskingum and northern Morgan counties and drilled a few wells with but moderate success. This drilling proceeded from time to time until in the early 1920's enough natural gas had been discovered to cause those engaged in the work to look around for markets for their products.

Among those who had added to the field development was a partnership of Bullock and Davis with offices in New Lexington. They conceived the idea of building a pipe line to Crooksville and marketing their natural gas to the pottery plants. They succeeded in making their first agreement with The Crooksville China Company, by the terms of which, The China Company agreed to buy natural gas to be delivered to their plant at Crooksville. This was the beginning in Crooksville of what is now the Industrial Gas Corporation.

As time went on, the ownership of the gas company changed from Bullock and Davis into other hands, and through various combinations with other natural gas properties and capital additions, the Corporation has become the chief source of natural gas supply to industry in Perry, Muskingum, and Licking Counties. At this point it is, we think, quite proper to assume that natural gas, for industrial use as we know it today, would not have been available nearly so soon had it not been for the cooperation of The Crooksville China Company.

It was in 1927 that Bullock and Davis sold their natural gas interests and also, at that time, came the development of the Crooksville oil and gas field. The great number of wells drilled in a small area, all of which produced varying quantities of natural gas, brought about the need for a central gathering station where the gas could be concentrated at one point and the pressure raised sufficiently for marketing purposes.

In 1928 and 1929, the Gas Company built the present compressor station at the north corporation line of Crooksville. This station has been expanded into a central point for about all the field work necessary to the operation of the gathering, distribution, and drilling activity. Leading from this station are low pressure gathering pipe lines and higher pressure distribution pipe lines. These lines form a network leading in all directions and are as complete and modern as can be economically operated.

Industrial Gas Corporation has successfully served the clay working industry of Crooksville since the first gas was discovered and the first pipe lines built into the town as previously mentioned. At present they are the principal fuel supply for Crooksville industry. The majority of their employees either live in the town or close by. There has been a very pleasant relationship between Crooksville Industry and Citizenry and the Gas Company and its personnel. This relationship will no doubt continue throughout many more years and become a part of the future histories of Crooksville.

To our knowledge there has never been a day since the Corporation opened their lines to the manufacturers of Crooksville that the supply of gas was insufficient. The service has at all times been of the highest order and most pleasant relationship. Entering Crooksville from the north end of the Corporation line, you view their compressor station which is a modernly constructed plant, that any city in Muskingum or Perry County would be proud to boast of. Their spirit of progress, the pleasant relationship that has always existed between the gas company, its personnel, and Crooksville Industry and Citizenry can never be forgotten. Yes, we believe such relationship will continue many, many years.

### THE OHIO POWER COMPANY

Through the kindness of Mr. F. J. Reid, Superintendent of the Crooksville District of the Ohio Power Company, we are pleased to incorporate the following:

"The first Electric Light Plant in Crooksville, Ohio was started in the year 1905, which was known as The Acme Electric Light Company. The equipment consisted of one 75 K. W. two phase generator, installed in what was then known as The Acme Pottery, and which is now the A. E. Hull Pottery No. 2. The engine that was used for the pottery through the day was also used for the lighting generator at night. This was found to be very unsatisfactory, and in 1908 the Light Company decided to purchase a location and build a building, install a boiler and other equipment necessary and move the generator from the pottery to their new location, which was situated near the Star Pottery No. 2.

On July 15, 1908, J. Edward Horn and Chas W. Runk came from Philipsburg, Pa., and purchased the Plant and operated it as The Perry Electric, furnishing current for twenty-six arc lights for street lighting and about eighty lighting customers.

March 1, 1913, the Perry Electric Company sold out to The Ohio Light and Power Company, which is now known as The Ohio Power Company. At this time they were furnishing current for 46 arc lights, 145 lighting customers, and one two J.P. motor in Tedrow's Bakery on Buckeye Street. About one year later they began furnishing continuous service and building transmission lines.

Up until this time there were only about four miles of distribution line in the Village of Crooksville. In 1914 the first substation structure was built on the present location and consisted of one four column structure. This has been added to until today it is one of the largest and best equipped substations in the state.

About the time the Ohio Power Company or the Ohio Light and Power Company purchased in Crooksville, they also purchased the electric companies in New Lexington and Shawnee. High voltage lines were built to these various towns and these properties were combined into one district





The Ohio Power Co.

known as The Crooksville District. This required more office space and the new modern office building was constructed in 1928 and occupied in November of that year. There are now more than 6,000 accounts handled from this office each month for about 24 villages and towns surrounding Crooksville.

F. J. Reid, who resides at New Lexington, is the District Superintendent for the Crooksville District.

While the Company discontinued the sale of small appliances and Mazda Lamps some years ago, they still merchandise Hotpoint Electric Ranges and Electric Water Heaters. The first 60 Watt Mazda Lamp sold in Crooksville was sold to the Garlinger and Keck Millinery Store in 1911 at a price of \$1.75 each. Today the same wattage lamp is retailing over the counter at 13c each.

A double circuit of 132 KV was built into the Crooksville substation from the Philo plant and the capacity of the Crooksville substation has been increased so that at the present time it has a capacity of 52,300 KVA."

It is almost impossible to comprehend when we look back 73 years and see ourselves sitting around the breakfast table with no other light than a tallow candle to guide our hand as we ate our corn cakes and sorghum molasses. I would be satisfied to eat the same menu for breakfast the rest of my days as I have never found a more palatable food in these modern days. Yet the tallow saucer with a flannel rag ablaze or a tallow candle would drive the present generation mad. Mr. Edison was looking many generations ahead when he dreamed of a modern world groping in darkness with only the light of a candle and said: "There must be more light", and with a vengeance he pushed the button and there was light. Great credit is due the men having a part in promoting the Acme Pottery Company who were possessed of faith, vision, and courage, and set the first electric light pole. It was the corner stone on which the great industry, The Ohio Power Company, stands today. The present generation may ask, "Who were these men?" We answer, "Lewis Springer, Joseph J. Hull, Hop Smith, Will H. Dunn, W. A. Showers, and Cyrus Sowers". The Ohio Power Company has in its Crooksville substation one of the most modern and complete substations

found in any part of the country. Always at the service of all the people day and night. Cut the wires that carry the current into our town and the wheels of industry would stop. Our streets, homes, business rooms, offices, churches, and schools would all be in darkness. Refrigerators, electric stoves, washing machines, electric irons, radios, and many other conveniences, even permanent waving machines would become obsolete, leaving the electric button helpless. What a dirty, smoky, gloomy, and sad city Crooksville would be. Much fault is found today with public utilities. They are not perfect. They make mistakes, but if controlled by politicians and bureaucrats would conditions be better? I fear not. We welcome the Ohio Power Company in our city and appreciate their cooperation. We trust the pleasant relations between the personnel of this corporation, the manufacturers, business men, city officials, and domestic consumers may continue many years as they bring to us more light and power.

#### THE EASTERN TELEPHONE SERVICE COMPANY

At the time the first telephone was installed in Crooksville I was engaged in the general mercantile business under the firm name of Brown and Crooks on West Main Street. When first approached to install a telephone in our general store, it was difficult to convince me of the necessity of a telephone. I remember of saying it would only be an aggravation, not a convenience. I really thought so at that time. Yet, with all the benefits that have come to business, individuals, and the general public, I have never been able to comprehend until recently talking with Mrs. Frances Barber, Chief Operator of our local office in rather a kidding way of her easy position, when she briefly reviewed a few facts that were so interesting and educational regarding the valuable service the telephone system had contributed to the world, connecting even Crooksville with all the continents of the globe. Then I realized as never before my gross ignorance. I requested that she put this information in writing that it might be a part of my contribution to the facts of Crooksville in which I am trying to give to the present generation. She kindly consented, and I now pass it on as follows:



"In compliance with your request, I am pleased to furnish you with the following information relative to the Telephone Company development in Crooksville.

The first telephone in Crooksville was installed by The Central Union Telephone Company of Zanesville, Ohio, under the management of Mr. B. F. Lloyd, in the hardware store of Mr. W. A. Brown on East Main Street, January 13, 1899. This was a toll station line on which also was a telephone at New Lexington, one at Roseville, and one at Fultonham. Mr. Brown was paid 10 percent of all calls transmitted from his telephone.

On November 10, 1903, a toll line was constructed by Mr. J. B. Rhodes of Zanesville from Crooksville to Roseville with a toll station located in the Drug Store owned by Mr. S. R. Souders. In that month the Crooksville Telephone Company was organized by Mr. Rhodes, in which a number of his friends in West Mansfield, Mr. S. R. Souders and Mr. J. L. Bennett became financially interested.

In January 1904, the exchange was constructed and began service on April 1st of that year. The toll station was then discontinued, and the line connected with the exchange direct. In September, Mr. Rhodes purchased the Deavertown exchange which he merged with the Crooksville Company; in November, 1926 merged with The Perry County Telephone Company, which was organized July 1, 1909 and operated as a Bell Company with offices on East Main Street, with Mrs. Helen Calhoun in charge, Tom Hughes and Clifford Presgrave, as service men.

Mr. Rhodes was President and General Manager of The Crooksville Telephone Company, and also operated offices in Glouster, Junction City, Trimble, New Concord, Adamsville, Frazesburg, and other towns. His ability was evidenced by the wonderful growth of the companies under his management. On June 6, 1928, he quit active service in industry and sold his Crooksville interests to The Suburban Light and Power Company which later became The Telephone Service Company of Ohio. It continued to operate under the name of The Crooksville Telephone Company, with the local manager, Mr. Ralph Hammond, who resigned September 14, 1940. He was replaced by Mr. George Tanner who has continued as local manager since that time.

On December 1, 1941, the Crooksville Telephone Company was reorganized under the name of The Eastern Telephone Service Company, operating 400 telephone, 27 miles of pole line, and 600 miles of wire.

The telephone is a tangible worthwhile instrument. A vital, necessary thing. When a person has a telephone installed, he has at his fingertips, one of the most wonderful and convenient servants ever invented. He has the privilege of instant communication with other people. That same telephone may be instrumental in saving a life, or getting a job, or calling the fire department, or any one of a thousand purposes.

The telephone is made up of 248 pieces which represent but a fraction of the vast network that stretches beyond the instrument, a network of wire and cable interlaced through the city and countryside, underground and overhead. Workmen of special training and skill are required to join the equipment line by line, and each wire led to its proper termination so that the whole maze becomes effective for the transmitting of speech. Telephone communication has eliminated distances and made the entire world close neighbors.

When you pick up a telephone you hold in your hand, bits of America, Brazil, India, Africa, China and other countries. The longest telephone call you could make from any point in the United States would be from Bay, California, to Adelaide, Australia, via New York and London, about 18,000 miles. It would include both wire and radio circuits. The longest telephone call within the United States would be from Eastport, Maine, to Bay, California, 2,910 airline miles. Today any conversation between continents half a world apart is far easier and clearer than was the first telephone message sent over a wire stretched only between two rooms.

Born, both of engineers, efforts to learn more of how speech and sound behave and of improvements in telephone equipment, have come the electrical Stethoscope, which amplifies heart sounds, and aids in the improved diagnosis of heart troubles, also the Audiphone, for the hard-of-hearing, talking pictures and radio broadcasting would have

been impossible without development of an improved telephone transmitter. The employees and management work together in mutual confidence and wholehearted cooperation essentially to a single purpose, "The Spirit of Service." The splendid loyalty of our good customer friends has enabled us to better serve them and industry, and is deeply appreciated.

The men, women, and the facilities of The Telephone Company are glad to contribute their share towards the advancement of Industry and face the future years with eager anticipation, with the hope that we may continue to be of constructive service to Industry and to our good Friends."

Very interesting indeed, Mrs. Barber. Let us imagine for a moment what would Crooksville be like if all the telephone wires were taken down, the telephone poles destroyed (that get in our way so many times), the telephone receivers taken from the wall or removed from our desks, the boxes taken out and burned, all communications cut off from our neighbors, and the outside world. Can we imagine the inconvenience we would be subjected to, after living in these modern days of communication one with another? We trust that the pleasant relationship that exists between the Telephone Company and the citizens of Crooksville may continue for many, many years to come.

### **W. A. SHOWERS COMPANY**

There is no business concern in Crooksville that has contributed more to the expansion of progress of our city than W. A. Showers & Co. Perhaps 75 per cent of all the factories, business establishments, and public buildings and residences have been constructed by this company. Mr. Showers organized this company in the year 1894. Associated with him were Spencer Tharp, H. E. Pettit, his sons, Harold and George Showers. This responsible firm has built some of the largest public school buildings, churches, and business blocks in the state of Ohio. In the past years they also did much work for the U. S. Government. No contract that this company has ever taken has been too large or too small to command Mr. Showers' most careful and sincere attention. His word is his bond. His guarantee



is "If you find anything wrong, we make it right," and he does. At the present time Mr. Showers' oldest son, Harold, is somewhere in Africa supervising the construction of some large defense project for the U. S. Government, and Mr. Showers and his associates are conducting the business here at home as usual.

### CARR AND BONIFANT

These contractors and builders established their business in the year 1903. Mr. C. C. Carr was an experienced brick mason, while Mr. Marion Bonifant was one of the most skilled carpenters in Perry County. They specialized in the building of fine homes, as well as large buildings. At one time they employed a force of fifteen skilled and unskilled men and kept them employed during the year completing numerous contracts they were called upon to fulfill. They successfully operated their business as a partnership organization for many years. They are both residents of Crooksville at the present time and still working in conjunction with each other on numerous contracts. These two men were born and reared in Morgan County. Mr. Carr was a country boy brought up on Wolf Creek, and the birth place of Mr. Bonifant was Deavertown. Morgan County is well represented in Crooksville and can be found among our most influential citizens.

### THE CROOKSVILLE X-RAYS

The first newspaper published in Crooksville was established in March 1896. It was owned and published by James F. DeLong. This paper was published in the interests of all the people, a non-political publication, free from partisan politics. Mr. DeLong was conscious and sincere in giving the people of the community the true facts. His slogan was a square deal for everybody. Born and reared on a farm one and one-half mile north of town, a staunch Democrat, quiet and reserved, always considering the rights of others. During the years in which he published his paper, he constantly kept in mind the best interests of Crooksville and contributed much to the progress of this growing town. Mr. DeLong continued the publication of his paper until his health failed, and he was confined to his

home, at which time his oldest son, Kenton, then 19 years old, continued the publication until after the death of his father, March 19, 1909, and the publication was discontinued and the business closed.

### THE CROOKSVILLE ADVANCE

Emmett E. Brannon in 1902 moved to Crooksville from Troy, Ohio, and established a live wire periodical known as The Crooksville Advance, which he successfully published until 1905. Mr. Brannon had many irons in the fire, and could not give his paper his personal attention any longer, therefore he sold the paper to W. H. and C. W. Loughhead who became editors and publishers. The Loughheads came to Crooksville from Zanesville with a background of many years of newspaper experience. In 1907 this paper again changed hands and became the property of D. W. Callahan of West Alexandria, Ohio. Through the kindness of H. J. Bierly, we bring the history of The Crooksville Advance up to date as follows:

After a short period of one year, Mr. Callahan sold the paper to C. B. Shields and H. J. Bierly of Shirley, Indiana, who took over with the issue of November 4, 1909. At that time, the paper was a seven column, eight page affair containing news of general value, as well as local happenings. Shields and Bierly continued to print the paper for five or six years, at the end of which time H. J. Bierly took over complete control of the paper, which he made Republican in politics. He continued to run it until 1924 when he consolidated with the New Lexington Tribune which he printed in New Lexington, Ohio. For 4 years, from 1924 to 1928, Crooksville had no paper of its own but was well represented, having a section in this county paper.

In 1928 Mr. Bierly sold the Tribune and reestablished his printing business in Crooksville, located in the East Main Street building now owned by Mrs. Charles LaFollette. In 1929, the local churches sponsored a small page, 4 column paper which they named "The Crooksville Messenger." Editors at that time were L. B. Mignerey, pastor of the United Brethren Church, N. B. Martin, pastor of the Church of Christ, and E. L. Butler, pastor of the Methodist Church.



The Advance Printing Co.



Business manager was H. J. Bierly. This set-up proved quite satisfactory for 3 years when the churches turned the paper over to the schools. The schools and Mr. Bierly worked out an arrangement, whereby the Journalism class of the high school would edit the paper, and Mr. Bierly would be the advertising and business manager. This arrangement was in effect until 1939 when the school curriculum would no longer admit journalism due to the shortage of money and teachers for elective subjects. Mr. Bierly then purchased the Messenger, which during the course of several years, has been enlarged into a 6 column paper and carries news of local interest to the citizens of Crooksville and surrounding communities.

Many thanks to Mr. Bierly. May we say in conclusion that the Crooksville Messenger is a live wire weekly publication, chuck full of local and foreign news, working for a greater and better Crooksville. Keenly alive to the future possibilities of the city. What would our city be without a newspaper.

### CROOKSVILLE CEMETERY

CROOKSVILLE could no longer be called a village. It was classified as a town, yet up until 1891 no provision had been made to bury the dead. The Township Trustees joined the citizens of our town, bought 4 acres of land from Mason T. Moore on the West side, laid it out in burial lots, had it plotted and offered for sale. The lots sold rapidly. It was the understanding between the Trustees and the citizens of Crooksville and surrounding neighborhood that both the Protestants and Catholics were to use this cemetery for their burial ground. However, for some reason unknown to the writer, this did not materialize. The first burial was an infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. French on September 20, 1892. The second was an infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Yahn, September 21, 1892. During the past years many sorrowing souls have placed their loved ones beneath the sod to await the resurrection morning. Day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, we see multitudes winding their way up the hill to place a flower and drop a tear over their loved ones. This little city of the dead has grown until it now covers

approximately 15 acres of ground. The record is incomplete, but as nearly as can be estimated, there were approximately 2,000 persons interred at this date.

In the year of 1920-21, a mausoleum was built containing 114 crypts. 65 are now occupied. Mrs. Thomas Maxwell was the first person interred. The mausoleum was not completely finished at the time of her death. Mr. and Mrs. Levi Watt had died a few months before the death of Mrs. Maxwell. Their bodies were taken to New Lexington and placed in crypts in the mausoleum there, awaiting the completion of the Crooksville Mortuary. They were the next to be interred. At this time, there remains 49 empty crypts all sold.

In visiting the cemetery a few days ago, as the sun was setting in the West, it presented a most beautiful picture. The care-taker, Mr. Fred Reed, was neatly finishing the grave of one just interred. The sun's rays fell over the green grass and marble stones, flowers were peeping through the ground hastening to bloom into new life and beauty, and fill the air with their fragrance. I paused, I could hear no voice. All was silent. I was within the city of the dead.

“Where cross the crowded ways of life  
Where sound the cries of race and clan  
Above the noise of selfish strife  
We hear thy voice, O Son of Man.”

### UNDERTAKERS

Most Undertaking establishments are located near cemeteries. Undertakers were not to be found in Crooksville until the cemetery was opened in the year of 1892.

### STRAIT & WATTS

It was during the year of 1891 that the undertaking establishment of Strait and Watts of Roseville saw new possibilities opening to them. They established a branch at Crooksville. Mr. Chas. W. Watts, the junior partner of this undertaking establishment moved his family from Roseville to Crooksville, built a new residence at the corner of East Main and State Street, taking full charge of this end of the business. Mr. Watts built a business room on East Main Street and opened a furniture store in connection with the undertaking business. Mr. Watts was a

Crooksville man and was very popular with all classes of people and the new branch was a success from the beginning. A few years later, Mr. Watts bought Mr. Strait's interest at Crooksville and conducted the business successfully until his death in the year of 1898.

At this time, I wish to relate an incident that took place during Mr. Watts' experience as an undertaker.

It was on Saturday, June 19, 1897, Mr. Joseph McFarland, brother-in-law of the writer, was stricken on the street with cerebral hemorrhage. He was taken to his home and died within an hour. Mr. Watts was called to embalm the body and prepare it for burial. He brought with him, Mr. David Miller, a barber. A terrific electrical storm came up. Lightning struck the McFarland home, killed Mr. Miller as he was shaving the deceased, struck Mr. Watts, the undertaker, passed down his body splitting his trouser leg, tearing the heel from his shoe, and rendering him unconscious for several hours. It splintered the rafters of the house, came down the chimney, crossed the room where a number of people were gathered, instantly killing the youngest son, Ralph, who was sitting on the knee of his brother, William, who escaped injury excepting severe shock. This all happened within one minute. Mr. Watts partially recovered and was able to go about, but died one year later. It was believed by his friends that the shock hastened his death. As I remember, from the time the Crooksville Cemetery was opened in 1892, until his death, Mr. Watts was in charge of every burial that was conducted in this cemetery. In many instances he conducted the singing at funerals where he was in charge. Charlie Watts was a much loved man. He was the father of our present and popular postmaster, Curtis (Doc) Watts.

### CANNON & CANNON

In 1897, Floyd Cannon and Joshua Sowers entered into a partnership and established an undertaking business. The business was conducted successfully until 1902 when this partnership was dissolved. Mr. Sowers retired from the business. Mr. Charles Cannon succeeded Mr. Sowers and the firm was styled as Cannon & Cannon. In connec-





Cannon and Cannon Funeral Home

tion with their undertaking business, they built a three story brick building on East Main Street and opened an up-to-date furniture store. Their business grew rapidly, and in 1929 they secured a suitable location in Roseville. They built a modern building, and opened a furniture store in connection with a morgue and funeral home. Charles Cannon, with his son, Paul, moved to Roseville and took charge of this branch of the business. Floyd and his son, Frederick, remained in Crooksville. They bought the Stoneburner building on North Buckeye Street, remodeled it so as to make a modern morgue and funeral home. In the year of 1929, Charles Cannon died. Since that time his son, Paul, has very ably succeeded him. The Cannons have kept a careful record of each and every burial since their entrance into the business, and in conference with Mr. Floyd Cannon a few days ago, he informed me that they had buried 5190 bodies since they had embarked in the undertaking business. Considerably more than the population of any one city in Perry County.

### G. S. DRIGGS

It was in 1901 that the undertaking establishment of Milligan and Driggs came into existence. Mr. Milligan had for a number of years previous to this time, been engaged in the undertaking business at Deavertown, Ohio, living on his farm that joined the village of Deavertown.

Mr. Driggs came to Crooksville from his father's farm (Joseph Driggs), Morgan County in 1894, and opened Crooksville's first livery stable. He conducted a bakery and restaurant in 1895 and was also engaged in the timber business until 1900. He attended embalmers school at Columbus, received his diploma as a professional embalmer and in 1901 the firm of Milligan & Driggs hung out their shingle as funeral directors and embalmers. Mr. Milligan had had 18 years of experience as an undertaker at Deavertown where he remained and managed that end of the business. Mr. Driggs became manager of the new establishment at Crooksville. They bought the furniture store of Mr. Harvey Amerine which they conducted successfully until the death of Mr. Milligan in 1920. Mr. Driggs bought his interest and is still one of Crooksville's popular and successful undertakers and furniture dealers.



Crooksville U. S. Post Office.



### OUR POST OFFICE

In 1870, the first mail pouch was dumped from the mail cars as the Cincinnati Express passed through Crooksville. The newly appointed Postmaster, Joseph E. Crooks gathered it up, carried it into his little store room, unlocked the mail sack and dumped the mail on the desk and made the distribution. How many pieces of mail this sack contained, I have no way of knowing. Neither do I know how many pieces of mail the first pouch contained that was dispatched from Crooksville. I am inclined to think the pieces of mail that were received and dispatched in this new and memorial postoffice could have been counted on the fingers of one hand, when you consider the postmaster's commission on all the stamps cancelled for the first quarter amounted to less than five dollars. I am sure it was a real pleasure for my father to render this small service to the community without considering the small compensation he received from the government. The honor of being the first postmaster of the village that bore his name was worth much to him all the remainder of his life. As the town grew and his commission increased in proportion, he felt he was amply paid. For 16 years he held the office of postmaster under the following Presidents: U. S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Chester Arthur, resigning his position in 1885 after the inauguration of Grover Cleveland to the presidency. The business of the postoffice kept pace with the growth of the town and every change in postmastership the business increased. The location of the office was moved from the east to the west section of town, then back to the east as changes were made in postmasters.

At the time the first postmaster, Joseph E. Crooks, disposed of his store in which the postoffice was located, he built a small building on the same lot in which his residence and store room was located, moved the office into this building, continued as the postmaster until 1885 when Worley Whitehouse succeeded him. Mr. Whitehouse occupied the same building during his term of office.

At the expiration of Grover Cleveland's first term of office as President in 1889, Benjamin Harrison was inaugurated President and E. L. Taylor succeeded Worley White-

house as Postmaster and moved the office to West Main Street in his grocery store. At the expiration of Benjamin Harrison's term of office in 1893, Grover Cleveland was again elected President and James F. DeLong was appointed postmaster, and the postoffice was moved across the street and located in the general store room of Brown and Crooks, where it remained until 1897, when Wm. McKinley became President, at which time E. L. Taylor was reappointed postmaster, moving the office to East Main Street in his store room, which building is now owned by Edwin M. Pitcock, and which houses a section of his hardware business. Mr. Taylor held the office through the Administrations of President McKinley and a part of the Administration of Theodore Roosevelt. In 1905, John G. Burley was appointed postmaster and the office was moved to the Taylor Brothers Building, West Main Street. After a few months of service, Mr. Burley resigned in favor of the appointment of Granville Springer, and President Theodore Roosevelt approved the recommendation. Mr. Springer was appointed to the office of Postmaster to succeed Mr. Burley. The office was again moved across the street into the Opera House Building where more convenient accommodations were provided. Mr. Springer continued in office throughout the terms of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft until Woodrow Wilson was elected and inaugurated President in 1913, at which time John E. Taylor was appointed Postmaster, holding the office until the election of Warren G. Harding as President in 1921, at which time E. L. Taylor was appointed postmaster for the third time. During this term of office, the postoffice was again moved into the King Building on East Main Street, being a more central and comfortable location. At the close of Calvin Coolidge's first term in 1925, filling out the unexpired term of President Harding, deceased, Mr. Coolidge was elected to the Presidency and Clarence Coulter was appointed Postmaster, serving in this position until election and inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

On July 18, 1933, Curtis T. Watts received notice from Washington, D. C., signed by the Honorable James Farley, Postmaster General, that he had been appointed Postmaster of Crooksville, Ohio, to succeed Clarence Coulter, effective

immediately, and on July 19, 1933, he was inducted into his office and became Postmaster of Crooksville.

In the year of 1906, two rural free delivery routes were established out of Crooksville. Daniel Poling and Burley Tharp were appointed mail carriers. Mr. Poling was killed by a train on the Pennsylvania Railroad while making a delivery on his route March 1906. Mr. Tharp was a fireman on the Columbus and Eastern Railroad in 1900, and was firing the engine at the time it jumped from the track on #36 trestle between Crooksville and Saltillo. The trestle was 69 feet high. The engineer was killed but Mr. Tharp escaped with his life. It was six years later that he became one of Crooksville's first rural mail carriers.

In 1919, the business of the office had increased sufficiently to entitle the patrons of the office to free city delivery. Accordingly, Chester Ryan received the appointment for the east and Lewis Holcomb for the west side of Crooksville as the first city mail carriers. Mr. Ryan is still serving, Mr. Holcomb having retired. Harold Trout is now covering Mr. Holcomb's route. Chester Ryan makes this statement: "I have covered my route for 23 years twice each day, which is seven miles long, walking 14 miles daily, or 84 miles each week which amounts to 4,368 miles per year, or 104,832 miles in the 23 years of service. For 5 years my faithful dog "Spot" accompanied me on every trip, traveling 21,840 miles."

It became necessary for the mail carriers each day after distributing the incoming mail to assort the mail to be delivered on their respective routes. The mail to be dispatched from the office to various parts of the world was increasing daily, hastily outgrowing the capacity of the King Building. The situation was brought to the attention of our Congressman, the Honorable Mell G. Underwood, who at that time was in Washington and always looking after the interest of his constituencies. He immediately got busy, and through his efforts an appropriation was set up and the necessary legislation legally enacted to build a new and modern building to house the post office and employes for the present and future needs of our city. Inspectors were immediately dispatched to Crooksville from Washington who made a survey of our city, an ideal loca-



tion selected, plans and specifications drawn, and in 1937 our beautiful post office building was completed. On July 31, 1938, the office was moved into its new and permanent home. The building is built of brick and the inside divided into six departments as follows: "Money Order, Registry, Parcel Post, Stamps, General Delivery, and Private Office for Postmaster, at an approximate cost of \$40,000. It requires 14 employees to take care of the mail and transact the daily routing of business, namely: Postmaster, 2 Postal Clerks, 1 Substitute Clerk, 2 City Carriers, 1 Substitute City Carrier, 2 Rural Carriers, 2 Substitute Rural Carriers, 1 Laborer, 1 Fireman, and 1 Special Deliveryman. Two daily deliveries are made in the city and one rural delivery each week day. Mr. Watts states that 330,000 pieces of first class mail weighing less than one ounce each were dispatched from this office (machine cancelling record). All first class mail weighing more than one ounce was hand stamped for which no record was kept. At the close of the same fiscal year, 1938, records show that 18,243 money orders had been issued, and that the money order business had doubled in the past eight years under his administration as postmaster. The new post office building is located at the corner of East Main and Star Streets, landscaped with beautiful lawn, concrete walks, drive-way for rural delivery, parking space under covered porches in the rear, and is said to be the most modern post office building in Perry County. This post office established in 1870 in a country store, 72 years under efficient administration by men of ability, capability, and dependability in whom the patrons of this office confided. Post office hours 6:30 A. M. to 6:00 P. M.

### PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD AGENCY

After the opening of the coal mine, quite a tonnage of coal was being shipped from Reed Station. Due to the fact that the nearest agency was at McLuney, all shipment had to be billed through this office. It was, as I remember, in the year of 1873 or 1874 the Pennsylvania Railway Company established a freight and ticket agency known as "Reeds Station", and appointed my father, Joseph E. Crooks as their agent. This office was located in the little building

which housed the post office. In 1885, the railroad company built a new freight and ticket office, moved their business into this new building, and the following year opened a telegraph office in connection with the agency. An operator was sent to teach telegraphy to Edward Boring, (a grandson of Joseph E. Crooks), who was sixteen years of age at that time. Ed issued his first train order in just four months after the wires were installed, and became the first operator at Crooksville. My father held the agency, operating a pumping station in connection with his work. In 1892, Mr. Crooks resigned his position as agent, but continued to operate the pumping station until 1894, the year of his death. W. B. Gulick was appointed to succeed Mr. Crooks as agent, Edward Boring accepting a position with G. E. McKeever who was then conducting a wholesale stoneware house in Cincinnati, Ohio. The agency was conducted at the same location until 1903 when the present freight and passenger buildings were completed, at which time the offices were moved into the new building and the old depot was loaded on a flat car and taken to Lionsdale. After the closing of the agency at that point, it was brought back to McLuney where it served the same purpose until the closing of the agency at that point.

The following named persons have served as agents for the Pennsylvania Railroad at Crooksville: Joseph E. Crooks, W. B. Gulick, Robert Holliday, Earl Brokaw, Charles Ater, and our present agent, Harry Rider. When this railroad was built through Crooksville in 1856, it was known as the Cincinnati and Muskingum Railway Company. The name of the station was changed from "Reeds Station" to "Crooksville" in 1890, and thereafter known as the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

### THE NEW YORK CENTRAL AGENCY

This railroad was built in the year of 1890 and was known as the "Shawnee Branch of the Columbus and Western Railway Co." Later, I am not certain of the year, the name of this branch was changed, and was known as the Zanesville and Western Railroad Co. It was operated for several years under the latter title and then absorbed by The New York Central Railway Company. Their freight

and ticket office was first located at the junction crossing of the Pennsylvania, remaining there until 1903 when they purchased their present location for their freight and passenger offices and freight yards. C. E. Oliver was appointed agent and served in this capacity for several years. He was succeeded by James Ogden. Mr. Ogden was succeeded by Bertie Cooper who served in this capacity until 1899 at which time L. Dwight Stoneburner was appointed as agent to succeed Mr. Cooper. Mr. Stoneburner very efficiently served his company to the satisfaction of the entire public for 41 years, at which time he was honorably retired from the service of his company and awarded a comfortable income for life for his 41 years of faithful service. Mr. Stoneburner with his faithful wife are numbered among our most respected citizens. Mr. Lee Welch was appointed agent to succeed Mr. Stoneburner, and is the present agent. For the past 52 years this railroad company has been hauling millions of tons of coal from the Sunday Creek Valley through Crooksville, climbing the old tunnel hill through Saltillo to Fultonham, thence carried by the main line into the markets of the country. This company has rendered valuable service to the citizens of Crooksville.

### OIL AND GAS BOOM

CROOKSVILLE HAS HAD two oil and gas excitements. The first well drilled in 1914 was north of town on the Waltmire farm (originally the Moses Tedrow farm). This well has a record of flowing 300 barrels in twenty-four hours. Several other wells came in on this farm that flowed between 250 and 275 barrels. Coming south, many wells were drilled on the James A. Watts, Eli Pitcock, and George Allen farms, all flowing from 200 to 275 barrels daily. Several dry holes were struck in and around Crooksville and drilling ceased. These wells did not only produce a very high grade of oil, but thousands of feet of gas also. Excitement ran high and a wild cat well was put down in the Crooksville Corporation in 1916 near the McLean Hotel on China Street. It produced gas only. It came in at several thousand feet of gas daily and was known as the Emmett Brannon No. 1 well. When shot, the roaring of the gas could be heard at a great distance. So highly



pleased was Mr. Brannon with his namesake that he made a business of opening the valve daily that he might make his namesake speak. The pressure went down, the roaring ceased, the gas had escaped. Nearly thirty years have passed yet many of these wells are still producing substantial quantities of both oil and gas. Excitement subsided: no more drilling.

Oil men had constantly kept in touch with the Crooksville district as to production and quantity of oil from wells that were active in the fields. The situation warranted further consideration and in the year of 1929, new leases were taken in Crooksville Corporation and surrounding territory. Drilling started. The first well was located on the lease of J. C. Sowers, which came in at 350 barrels of high grade oil the first twenty-four hours. The next well drilled was on the Chet King lease which produced 250 barrels every 24 hours, and on January 30, 1930, the third well drilled on the Claud Pletcher lease carried a record of 508 barrels production each 24 hours. This well held the championship throughout the years. Oil men were numerous, seeking leases. Citizens were anxious to let leases. Wells went down all over Crooksville. This grade of oil had a value at that time of about \$3.00 to \$3.50 per barrel. Oil was running down the hillside and through the alleys into the gutters of the streets. Rugs were spoiled in the homes because of oil on men's shoes. It made no difference, the check was coming in regularly, and in sufficient amounts to buy a new and better one, and the good housewife did not complain. Like all oil booms, it did not last. Yet many of these wells are still in production, producing substantial quantities of high grade oil.

### JONES COAL OPERATIONS

From under the hills of Perry and Muskingum counties these days comes a rumbling, then roaring noise, and near Deavertown, there's a beehive of activity that gives evidence of one man's long range planning and at the same time is pouring forth a stream of black diamonds—or coal.

It is the Jones Coal operations, of which we speak. And Earl J. Jones is the man whose visions of just about a



The Jones Coal Operations At Misco.

year ago, and whose planning far ahead, have now materialized.

For not far from the village of Crooksville is the mouth of the largest coal mine in the entire state of Ohio—and it is still growing so rapidly and so extensively, it is far surpassing even the expectations of those who watched a barren hill side transformed into the busiest spot in the district within a few short months.

And too, from that yawning mouth of the mine, the vast railroad yards and tracks, the big tippie and other activities comes a boon to Perry and Muskingum county payrolls that already is being widely enjoyed by workmen, merchants and businessmen alike.

It was not long ago that Mr. Jones first announced plans for opening of the big Misco mine. The word pictures of the anticipated operations were big—and the materializations have been even bigger. Even with the big mine now in full production, and trainloads of railroad cars being hauled from the big yards daily, there is still more going to be done as time passes. For example, in the immediate future is the erecting of a washinghouse not for the workers but for coal. The employes already have their own wash house, where they clean up after a busy day at work.

But as said before, the dream of less than a year ago is now materializing and its materialization is a story in itself.

A story how a road had to be built; railroad tracks laid; engineers scampering here and there, following their surveyors, making marks in the field and hillsides. Railroad experts viewed the scene, and engineers made sketches.

Then unfolded the picture. The tippie was in the process of erection. The New York Central Railroad, realizing the stupendousness of the proposed operations, laid a long spur from its main line to the field, while the Duffy Construction company laid out the yards. First were piles of railroad ties—then came the rails. Almost unbelievably the tracks took form.

Meanwhile the tippie was going up. Other engineers were laying plans for the underground operations. The first entrance was started. It was predicted coal would be reached at a certain hour on a certain day. The planners



and engineers missed their prediction—but a couple of hours, for they reached the expected vein of coal a couple of hours earlier than predicted.

Thus came into reality the initial operations. The first trainload of coal—25 cars—left the yards on March 21, this year (1945) and since that time as the underground workings developed, more and more cars were loaded and hauled away, and the present schedules excel even the first expectations.

In the underground operations, huge conveyors carry the coal to the tippie, and before long the belt-line itself will be longer than any other in the world. The ingenuity of Jones Operations Planners is evidenced by the successful conveyor operation.

Another highlight in the operations is the installation of breather pipes from underground to the surface every 600 feet, draining off fumes and giving egress to the heavy electric power lines.

And underground, the latest types of mechanical equipment, always kept in tip top shape digs or cuts and then loads the coal to the conveyor system.

Proof of the wide recognition already gained by the Misco mine was the visits in the past few months of high ranking British mining experts, who, while on tours in this country inspecting modern mining and transportation methods, were always told: "Don't miss the Jones Operations in the State of Ohio."

Their comments after visiting the mine are already well known, but their surprise—one might almost call it speechlessness—after inspecting the big operations is proof they had never seen anything like it before, and they were experts in the business of mining coal, visiting this country in the interest of their country.

And so Crooksville, Deavertown and many other communities in the district enjoy the benefits of the Jones operations. Increased—and still increasing payrolls have been reflected in the business transactions. Communities have enjoyed higher ambitions, for they know the Jones operations, already so firmly established, will be here for many, many years to come. And as the district gradually returns to normal, with markets once again having ample

stocks of all kinds of commodities, the effect of payrolls will be still more in evidence.

So the New York Central railroad is enjoying a boon due to increased traffic; industries are benefiting by having an ample supply of fuel near at hand, and the communities themselves are happily anticipating bigger and better times ahead—thanks to the Misco mine and the Earl J. Jones coal operations.

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Until 1885, Crooksville was without any manufacturing enterprises beyond the old Blue Bird Potteries, and they were scattered all over the surrounding country. The products of these little plants were disposed of through stoneware runners. Their wares were brought in wagons to the railroad station, assembled and loaded in box cars by some stoneware runner and disposed of in the markets. It was at this time the first steam operated stoneware pottery was built. It was a partnership organization, known as the Burley, Winter and Brown Company. It proved to be a great success which attracted the attention of pottery workers and stoneware runners who by hard work and economy, saved a few dollars. They too pooled their savings and entered into the manufacturing business. A brief history of these organizations has already been mentioned. Owing to the fact that the souls of our citizenship were wrapped up in this industry, many other virtues were neglected, and civic affairs suffered the most.

It was in the year of 1924 that a few of the business men, together with professional men, laborers, and representatives of Christian organizations, assembled themselves together one night in the old "Toquet Club" headquarters to discuss the situation. Those present were deeply concerned. Other meetings were called which resulted in the organization of our local CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. The organization was completed by electing a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and board of directors. Within a few weeks they had a membership of 150 men. Various committees were appointed to do specific work, which resulted in the removal of a number of unsightly obstructions, filling swamp holes, cleaning streets, etc.

Monthly membership meetings were held, good speakers were brought in from different cities. The people had a mind to work and did work. The subject of water works was taken up at a meeting in the basement of the Methodist Church one evening. After a very fine address by Mr. Howard Buker, Zanesville, the president of the Chamber asked the members if they thought Crooksville was in a position to bond the city for \$100,000 and install an up-to-date water works plant, and further requested as many as believed it could be done to express their opinion by a rising vote. 150 men stood up. There was no opposing vote. This was sufficient and the Chamber acted. Bonds were issued for \$96,000 which was all that could be legally issued through action of our City Council at that time. Contract was let, and in due time the plant was completed and water flowed through our streets in pipe lines at a pressure of 100 pounds per square inch. Much difficulty was encountered to get a quality of water which would meet the requirements of the State Board of Health, due to the high percentage of iron filtering into the creek from the coal mines. However, with the installation of a Filter Plant, this difficulty was temporarily overcome. The first Board of Public Affairs was appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, and consisted of J. L. Bennett, Lewis Springer, and Guy E. Crooks, who entered upon their duties without delay. Further details regarding the water works will be discussed under the subject of THE CROOKSVILLE WATERWORKS.

While the water works plant was being installed, another Committee was busy at work with the State Highway Department to the end of completing Route 75 from the Six Mile Turn to Crooksville which was accomplished. The 3rd project was the new Main Street Bridge. 4th, supervising of the Boy Scouts Playground. 5th, dredging of Burley Run from its source through Crooksville to the South Fork of Jonathan Creek, which relieved the flood situation that had been very destructive for many years. If the source had not been bottlenecked by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, narrowing the opening under their track, floods would have vanished several years ago from the West side of Crooksville. It was through the ef-



forts of the Chamber that the Somerset & Eaglesport State Route No. 669 was improved which passes through Saltillo, Crooksville, Rose Farm, and Deavertown.

The next project in which the Chamber led was pipe line connecting the reservoir with the city water supply. The Chamber led (with the cooperation of the merchants) in Summer Band Concerts and many other movements for the advancement of Crooksville. It was a live wire organization and should be stirred into action again. The following named persons served as Presidents: 1925 Guy E. Crooks; 1926 and 1927 Earl R. Crooks; 1928 and 1929 Charles E. Denman; 1930 and 1931 Charles M. Bennett; 1932 and 1933 Edwin M. Pitcock; 1934 and 1935 J. E. Boring; 1936 Charles M. Bennett; 1937 and 1938 Charles F. Ater, and 1939 Charles E. Denman. C. L. Dean served as Secretary from the beginning of this organization until 1928. Gordon A. Weese served from 1928 to 1939, at which time this Chamber of Commerce ceased to function, principally because of a lack of interest on the part of its members.

### THE CROOKSVILLE WATER WORKS

I am sure the citizens of Crooksville will be interested to know the full details regarding our water supply. Through the kindness of Mr. Homer F. Pickens, who has been an active member of the Board of Public Affairs since 1932, I am pleased to embody his very interesting review of our water system as follows:

After the installation of the Water Works Plant, which was of modern design for treating water according to the requirements of the State Board of Health, the water from the wells was found to be heavily laden with iron. The cost of treating this water to make it satisfactory for domestic and commercial purposes, was prohibitive, and even after being treated it was still very hard water. The more the wells were pumped, the more iron they produced and finally the well did not produce an adequate supply of water.

It became the duty of the Board of Public Affairs to seek a new source of water. The State Board of Health refused to approve any supply west of Crooksville or in the immediate vicinity, on the grounds that all such water

obtained would be below the outcrop of coal and the water from various mine openings had so polluted the water with iron and other substances that it would not yield satisfactorily to treatment.

It was the opinion of the Board of Public Affairs that the only practical way to obtain an adequate supply was to impound water behind a storage dam, and above the outcrop of coal, consequently a location was made on the north fork of Dry Run Creek in York Township, Morgan County, Ohio, and the water at the site selected met the instant approval of the State Board of Health. The location is three miles from the plant and the coal is 85 feet below the bed of the creek at that point.

53 acres of land were bought and during 1933-34 the storage dam was built through cooperation with various Federal organizations. The area covered by water is about eight acres and the dam impounds some 30,000,000 gallons of water.

Three miles of six inch pipe connects the storage dam with the plant. The impounded water is 106 feet higher than the base of the plant, thus permitting the water to reach the plant by gravity and it comes into the plant under 58 pounds pressure. After testing the impounded water through the plant, it was found that the raw water was softer than the water from the wells could be made by the highest degree of treating. This condition eliminated almost entirely the use of soda ash and lime which formerly were purchased in carload lots. Without exception, the numerous salesmen of water meters for various companies agree that the best water in Ohio lies between Coshocton and Crooksville, and whoever has the best water the fact is indisputable that the quality of Crooksville water is at or near the top at all times.

In the year of 1913, Mr. Pickens migrated to Crooksville from Morgan County, became deeply interested in the civic affairs of our city, and was elected a member of the Board of Public Affairs in 1932. He knew what it meant to be brought up on pure water. He longed for a drink of crystal pure ADAMS ALE. He had a dream which was not all a dream. His dream became a reality. He, with the other two members of the Board of Public Affairs (Edward But-

ler and Ralph Cope) told this dream to the State Board of Health who investigated, approved, and recommended that the dream be put into action, and today we drink, cook, bathe, and swim in Morgan County water. Since 1936, Homer Pickens, C. L. Pitcock, and Granville Springer have represented our city on the Board of Public Affairs.

Since the installation of our water works system, John Kellenbarger has been the efficient, competent, and obliging Superintendent with the exception of two years. No sacrifice has been too great on his part to provide the best of water by keeping the system in perfect workable condition at all times. Visit the reservoir. See the storage basin, the beautiful park surrounding the basin, drive out to the water treatment plant two miles south of town, then drive up the hillside east of town over a paved road to the reservoir storage tank. Then, and not until then, can one appreciate the splendid supervision John Kellenbarger has given our water works plant.

On October 15, 1941, Mr. Kellenbarger submitted plans to the State Board of Health for a raw water storage basin to be installed a short distance south of the water treatment plant and power house. His plans were approved by W. H. Knox, Assistant Engineer of this division, who recommended that the Board of Public Affairs install the basin according to plans submitted. This basin has already been constructed and is located a short distance south of the water treatment plant building. The basin is excavated about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the existing ground and the embankment around the basin extends about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the existing ground. The sides of the reservoir and the earth embankments around the reservoir are constructed on a slope of 2 to 1. The floor of the reservoir is 40 feet x 105 feet in plan. At the top of the embankment the reservoir is 76 feet x 181 feet in plan. Assuming a water depth of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in the reservoir (which allows a freeboard of 18 inches from the water surface to the top of the embankment) the capacity of the reservoir is 360,000 gallons.

A valve was inserted on the 6" raw water main opposite the reservoir. From the upstream side of this valve a 6" valve main extended to the center of the reservoir where it extends up 16 feet into the air and discharges onto stone



piled around the vertical pipe. The aeration is provided for removal of tastes and odor from the water.

Water is withdrawn from a concrete sump below the floor at one side of the reservoir. From this sump a 6 inch valved main connects to 6 inch raw water main at a point down stream from the valve which was inserted in this main. An overflow pipe extends from the reservoir to a tile drain crossing the plant property. When it is desired to draw water directly from the reservoir to the treatment plant, the valves on the pipes to and from the raw water storage reservoir can be closed. The raw water reservoir will permit more efficient operation of the water treatment plant.

What has been the cost? In the first place, Crooksville was bonded for \$96,000. The terms of payments have been met as fast as due. There is yet \$35,000 of the bonded indebtedness now due which will be met as due. The entire cost of the reservoir pipe line and other equipment has all been paid in full out of the receipts from the sale of water (exception some labor which was done by P.W.A. workers). There are at this time over 600 homes, business houses, public building, swimming pool, and fire department drawing their supply from the 28,000,000 gallon reservoir of the purest water in the state of Ohio, so says the State Board of Health. With the exception of the \$35,000 of bonded indebtedness, all other obligations have been paid in full with a balance of over \$7,000 in the treasury. Could anything be said more complimentary of the present Board of Public Affairs than this healthy financial condition?

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Previous to the installation of our water works system, Crooksville had several very disastrous fires. The only thing that could be done was just stand and watch the fire wipe out the property involved.

On June 6, 1929, our Fire Department was organized by electing Arthur Van Atta, President; Henry Freriks, Vice-President; C. E. Coulter, Secretary and Treasurer; William Bucknor, Fire Chief. Members of the Department were as follows: Howard Tatman, Theodore Tatman, Ralph Weaver, William Lowry, Gerald Conway, Lester Sowers,

Lawrence Sowers, Roy Moodie, Edgar Souders, Floyd Hoops, Harold Robb, and Floyd Springer. The fire fighting equipment consisted of one Model T Ford, necessary fire hose, fire buckets, ladders, and all the other needed equipment that our funds available would purchase. Many practices and demonstrations were performed. The members were enthusiastic and anxiously awaiting for the first fire. I am not certain where the first fire broke out, but one thing they did and did it quickly, was to put out the fire, and that is what they continued to do, and are still doing, "Putting out the fire." It would be impossible to name all the different persons who had served as members of the Fire Department, but one thing can be said emphatically, they have all been dependable men, and have rendered most commendable service.

January 1931, the Department purchased a Seagrave Truck. Ten years later in 1941, they purchased an International Truck, mounted with a 500 gallon storage tank to be used in emergency cases where pipe lines are not available. The Fire Department purchased an Inhalator for the benefit of the public, and have members who are capably trained to operate it, giving first aid when needed. The Department maintains a permanent staff of 25 volunteer members. Since the Department has been organized, they have had an average of twenty-five calls annually. Some of the most serious fires they have handled are as follows: The Keystone Pottery Company, A. E. Hull Pottery Company, Watt Pottery Company, The Methodist Church (two fires). All of the above were controlled without any great loss, besides many others not so serious. They have shown great skill in extinguishing the fires. There has never been a fire within the city limits since their organization that has resulted in a total loss. They have answered calls from surrounding villages and homes, rendering most valuable aid. At present the Fire Department owns 1 Seagrave Truck, 1 International Truck, 100 gallon Booster Truck, Hose, Ladders, and minor equipment, one 1941 Triple Combination (carrying a 400 gallon per minute), large Booster Tank, necessary quantity of Hose, Fire Alarm, Electric Siren, all paid for and in first class condition. Fire Insurance rates on residential and business property has been reduced over 40%.

The same ratio applies on Factories, Schools, Public Buildings, and Churches. It is understood that at this writing all equipment and other obligations have been paid in full, and there are no outstanding obligations to be met.

### LIONS CLUB

Since the Lions Club was organized recently, and the writer is not familiar with the working of this organization, he asked Mr. Charles E. Denman to supply us with the object and purpose of the Lions Club. Mr. Denman very kindly cooperated and has contributed some very interesting facts, which are as follows:

"Crooksville Lions Club received its Charter from Lions International office on the evening of January 18, 1940, at a joint Charter night meeting with the Roseville Club in St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Roseville, the Roseville Club receiving their Charter the same evening. The Charter was presented by Lion C. Frank Harbison, District Governor of 13B of Dayton, Ohio.

"There were thirty-four citizens of Crooksville enrolled as Charter members as follows: J. E. Boring, W. T. Barnes, Rolland D. Brown, Franklin Baker, H. J. Bierly, W. D. Darling, C. E. Denman, Joe B. Driggs, R. R. Ehrbar, Henry Freriks, Eugene G. Gross, Clarence Heskett, Joe Hull, Marlin King, Paul Levering, W. C. Mercer, J. T. Morrall, Edwin M. Pitcock, Jas. C. Papritan, Robert J. Robb, Robert S. Shockley, Russell Spring, Edgar B. Souders, H. W. Spung, R. L. Springer, Harry N. Watt, Loren M. Watt, W. I. Watt, Curtis T. Watts, Riley B. Williams, Emmett Wiseman, Fred H. Winter, Earl D. Young, and Franklin K. Young. At this writing, two Charter members are deceased: J. Ed. Boring and John T. Morrall. The following officers were chosen from the membership to serve the club for the first year:

W. I. Watt—President  
R. L. Springer—Secretary  
Marlin S. King—Treasurer  
Robert C. Shockley—Lion Tamer  
Eugene Gross—Tail Twister  
C. E. Denman—Vice President  
W. Dwight Darling—Vice President  
Henry Freriks—Vice President



Harry Watt—Director  
C. T. Watts—Director  
W. C. Mercer—Director  
Russell Spring—Director

"The first Lions Club in America was formed in Chicago June 7, 1917, and from that Club over five thousand clubs are now working in eight nations. Our Club was the one hundred third club chartered in Ohio. Today, Lions International Clubs have the largest membership of any service club in the world. Before forming the Club, we studied six objectives of the club, and decided they were best suited for us, being a small village of around 3,000 population. They are:

1. To create and foster a spirit of "generous consideration" among the peoples of the world through a study of the problems of international relationship from the standpoint of business and professional ethics.
2. To promote the theory and practice of the principles of good government and good citizenship.
3. To take an active interest in the civic, commercial, social and moral welfare of the community.
4. To unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
5. To provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all matters of public interest, partisan politics and sectarian religion alone excepted.
6. To encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in business and professions; provided that no club shall hold out as one of its objects financial benefits to its members.

"Nearly all the clubs in the nation have as their Activity "Sight conservation and Blind" having furnished 14,831 pairs of eye glasses to needy persons last year, however, when our club was formed, we already had two women's civic clubs doing this work very efficiently, so our club adopted "Public Health and Welfare."

"In order to raise money for our treasury to carry on our work, it was necessary to hold some money raising activity. It was decided by our board of Directors to hold two major events annually; one in summer and one in the winter months. The "Show of Progress" held in June 1941 and

1942 netted the Club approximately \$350 each year. Our annual game party held in March 1941 and 1942 netted the Club approximately \$225 each year. Out of this money we have paid for tonsil operations, dental work, hospitalization, part of cost of an artificial limb, made donations to all patriotic and civic organizations, and have, also, contributed \$100 to the High School Athletic Fund toward the purchase of bleacher seats.

"In the fall of 1941, our swimming pool was completed at the Municipal Park and the Village Council did not have funds to beautify the park. A committee from the Lions Club went before Council and asked permission to start improving the grounds and the setting out of shade trees. Council granted permission and the Club raised approximately \$900 by popular subscription. Over \$100 was invested in grading and grass seed, approximately 100 shade trees were planted, consisting of maple, elm, and oak. 50 Scotch pine trees, five years old were donated to the Club by Mr. Scott Higgins to be planted at the park. Thursday, November 13, 1941, the entire membership of the Club removed from the Higgins farm and replanted the fifty trees along the south side of the park grounds. What the Club considers its greatest feat since its origin was the removal of 14 large Norway and Colorado spruce trees from the farm of Mr. John Robb to the Municipal Park. Mr. and Mrs. Robb gave these trees as a memorial to the Robb family. The value placed on the trees by expert nurserymen was near \$1,000. These trees were removed by Club members, carefully burlaped and raised by a crane hoist and reset by hoist. This work was completed after careful planning without a loss of one tree. We feel proud of this accomplishment. Crooksville Lions Club is willing and ready to serve any worthy cause pertaining to health and welfare."

Thanks to Mr. Charles Denman for the interesting information. We are glad to welcome this organization, knowing they have demonstrated to the people of Crooksville so many of the high ideals for which their organization stands in so short a time in which they have been a part of our city.

### MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

It has been rather a difficult proposition to gather all the facts regarding this beautiful park. Mr. Denman mentioned the part the Lions Club had contributed to the beautifying of the grounds. Through an interview with Miss Elinor Madden, Assistant Editor of The Crooksville Messenger, she very kindly supplied the following:

The Crooksville Municipal Swimming Pool and Park is located on the McKeever Farm, adjoining to the north, the village of Crooksville. A fraction over 22 acres is covered by the park which includes the large pool, bath house, tennis courts, baseball diamond, artificial lake for skating in winter, outdoor basketball court, a large parking area and a winding drive.

The pool dimensions are 150 ft. in length; 60 ft. in width; and 9 feet in depth at the deepest end. At the shallow end its depth is 3 feet and 2 inches. This deepens gradually to the 5 feet level and is 9 feet on the diving end. The bath house is 87 x 34 feet and contains two dressing rooms, locker rooms, showers, rest rooms, first aid room, concession booth, and the manager's office. The booth was rented to the Wiseman Dairy for use during the summer of 1942, as theirs was the highest bid. The filtration plant is under the bath house. An artificial shallow lake, located in front of the bath house, has been made for ice skating. There are also two tennis courts, a baseball diamond and one out-door basket ball court. The courts are at the pool's left and the base ball diamond behind the pool. Around the pool is 11,000 square feet of concrete. The wading pool for children is 25 x 50 feet. The personnel for 1942 is as follows: Harry Gannon, manager; George Perrigo, caretaker; Walter Anderson, senior lifeguard; Warren Gottke, junior lifeguard; Gloria Campbell, check room clerk; Jay Bradshaw, check room clerk; Marilyn Love, extra check room girl. The parking area and the drive are of white limestone.

In the early fall, the Crooksville Lions Club, with the cooperation of many other civic organizations sponsored a drive for landscaping the park. Many of the men donated their time and efforts in going to the nearby farms and





Municipal Swimming Pool.

getting trees which they brought here and transplanted. John Robb, and also Scott Higgins donated many dollars worth of valuable evergreens for this purpose. Several other nearby farmers also gave trees. Government appropriations amounted to \$75,000. The corporation was bonded for \$25,000; later for \$7,500, and still later for \$400. There is no doubt that in years to come this pleasure resort will grow in beauty and attractiveness that will afford pleasure, rest, and recreation for the young and old.

### CONEY ISLAND

In the early days of Crooksville, it was the custom of the people to hold many public gatherings in the summer season, such as picnics, reunions, political meetings, platform dances, etc. There was no place for such meetings within the circle of our village. The old sawmill that stood for many years on the creek bank had been razed. The two dams had washed out, leaving the little island of which they had surrounded a lonely and forsaken spot. Several of the Civil War Veterans met together under the shade of the trees on this lonely spot in a social reunion. A thought struck one of the old comrades, "Why not make a park out of this little wilderness?" It appealed to all. The late Col. Edwin Hicks made a motion that we proceed at once to put our thoughts into action. The Honorable W. N. Burley presented the motion which was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Hicks said, "It must have a name. What will it be?" Mr. Burley suggested that it might be named in honor of the famous Coney Island of Cincinnati. By unanimous agreement, the little child was named. Refreshments were ordered, and the child was christened under the name "Coney Island." The work was soon started. Drift wood, rubbish, briars, and weeds were removed and burned. Trees were trimmed, the bodies white washed, and the little island was transformed from a wilderness into a garden of beauty. For many years it served the purpose for which it was intended. Why not make another cleaning of this old famous island. This might be a suggestion for the "Lions Club."

## PHYSICIANS

Until the year of 1890, Crooksville had never had a resident Physician. In case of sickness, accident, child birth, or any other illness, we were compelled to call a doctor from the surrounding villages, Saltillo, Fultonham, Deavertown, or Roseville, and sometimes Zanesville. The weather was never too inclement that the old doctor would not answer the call. He came through rain, snow, mud, or sunshine on horse back, sulky buckboard, or buggy, carrying a small drug store in his medical case, and with kind hands he prescribed, administered, and nursed the patient back to health. In the summer of 1890, early one morning there came a young man, a stranger riding a bicycle of the first model with a letter of introduction in his pocket from Mr. Andrew C. Breechbill, a merchant of Fultonham, addressed to Joseph E. Crooks, saying, "This letter will introduce to you, the bearer, Dr. Franklin Kemerer, a graduate of the Fort Wayne Medical College of Fort Wayne, Indiana who came to Fultonham, very highly recommended with the intention of locating here in our village. Unfortunately, another young man had arrived a few days earlier and has already opened his office. Knowing Crooksville is without a resident physician, I am sending him to you. I hope you will receive him, as I am sure he will render you great service." Mr. Crooks introduced the doctor to Mr. S. H. Brown, who had a vacant apartment over his general store. The doctor rented the apartment, immediately converted one room into an office, hung out his shingle, wired his wife to come to Crooksville, Ohio, at once. Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Brown gave him food and shelter until Mrs. Kemerer, with their household effects and office equipment arrived. It was the year that the Columbus and Eastern Railroad was being built through Crooksville, and it brought with it an epidemic of typhoid fever. It was a rainy summer and the doctor was called day and night. He answered the calls, had no horse, he walked, and administered and nursed his patients back to health. Dr. Kemerer was very successful in his practice, a man of intelligence and character, a Christian gentleman, who won the confidence and respect of everybody. His wife died only a few months after locating here. Later he married Miss Retta Tedrow of our village



and built himself a new home on Winter Street. His practice constantly increased. The strain was too much for his physical strength, and in August, 1894 he died, leaving his wife, one son, Paul Kemerer, who is one of Crooksville's respected citizens at this time.

Since then the following persons have been resident doctors of Crooksville: W. P. Dupler, E. I. Dozer, E. D. Allen, J. W. Dawson, John Dennison, C. L. Crider, James Campbell, R. F. Berry, Charles Lyle, James P. Wortman, A. C. Lawrence, R. H. Zemer, C. W. Banks, and George W. Tedrow. Dr. Dupler came to Crooksville in the year of 1895 from Bristol, Ohio, is now in his 80th year, having practiced his profession in this city for 49 years. Quite a number of his old friends refuse to let him retire. Dr. Dozer opened his office in the year of 1892 coming from Cincinnati, Ohio. He built up a large practice, and was one of the leading physicians of our city for 32 years. His health failed him in the latter years of his practice. He died in the year of 1924.

Dr. Allen opened his office in the year of 1905 after graduating from the medical department of the Ohio State University. He was born and reared in Zanesville. He has been a resident of Crooksville for 39 years and has enjoyed a large and successful practice. Dr. Lawrence came to Crooksville in the year of 1925. He built a large and successful practice. On long distance calls he drives his plane at a rapid speed to surrounding cities, returning to his office without neglecting even an office call. Dr. Tedrow is a Crooksville boy, born and reared and graduated from our local High School, graduated from the medical department of the Ohio State University in 1928. He opened his office in Crooksville in August 1928, having practiced successfully 13 years in his home city. He has been called and commissioned as Captain to serve in the medical department in the United States Medical Service. He will be stationed for the present at Scott Field, Belleville, Illinois. Is leaving for his Post July 8, 1942. This leaves Crooksville with only three medical practicing physicians at this time: Dr. Dupler, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Lawrence.

Dr. W. J. Moodie came to Crooksville in the year of 1914 from Shawnee, Ohio, where he had been associated in



Dr. George E. Bell, Dentist.

the undertaking and embalming business. In the year of 1924 he opened a modern and neatly equipped office authorized and licensed by the State of Ohio to practice the "Crum Vapor Baths System". Vapor Baths is a massage, vibrating treatment, applied by electricity and sun lamp operation. He has been very successful in his profession, and enjoys a very comfortable patronage. Mrs. Moodie is his lady attendant. The doctor commands the esteem and confidence of the public.

### DENTISTS

The following named persons have practiced dentistry in Crooksville: A. E. Thompson, C. L. Coulborn, G. E. Bell, S. D. Vosper, A. R. Vosper, Wm. T. Barnes, and R. F. Bondy. Dr. Bell has the distinction of practicing the greatest number of years in this city. He opened his office in the year of 1906 and is still active in his profession. Dr. A. R. Vosper would be next. Dr. S. D. Vosper would rank third.

At present we have but two dentists, Dr. G. E. Bell, and Dr. R. F. Bondy. It is a pleasure to say all the above men stood high in their profession. Both Doctors Bell and Bondy are enjoying a large and successful practice, and have the confidence of the people.

### DRUGGISTS

In the year of 1889, Kennedy Cunningham & Company of Deavertown opened the first drug store in the old Burley & Winter building on Railroad Street. Pearce Graham was the managing druggist. He was a very likeable young chap, and did a very prosperous business. If he did not have everything in stock you called for, he was pharmacist enough to soon make it, and the boys left satisfied.

In the year of 1894, Mr. S. R. Souders, then a young man, having just graduated from the school of Pharmacy, bought the above business, and became the sole owner until 1911, when Thomas T. Cusick bought a half interest in this business. Mr. Cusick built a new building on West Main Street, opening another store at that point, which he has successfully operated up to the present time. Mr. Souders continued at the old stand on East Main Street until his death in 1928. Mrs. Souders at that time took charge of the





Souders and Cusick Druggist

store, continuing the business until her death in 1939. Their son, Edgar, became heir to the well established business of his father, being a graduated Pharmacist, he assumed the management of the East Main Street store and the business continues perfectly and satisfactorily at the present time. Hence the firm name of Souders and Cusick continues at this time.

In the meantime, the following drug stores have been opened and operated for a season, closed up their business and passed on: Taylor Brothers, Ray Fox, and Mr. Combs.

### ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Crooksville has never been overcrowded with Lawyers. We have been a peaceful people. The policy of the persons who have maintained offices and practiced their profession in Crooksville have sought to keep their clients out of trouble, not lead them into trouble.

The first Attorney to hang out his shingle was the late Judge Thomas Price. Following Mr. Price was Emmett E. Brannon, Wm. E. Lentz, and Dwight Cusick. Attorneys Price, Brannon, and Cusick have all deceased. Mr. Lentz, still living, came to Crooksville in the year of 1906; 38 years ago, and he has enjoyed a very substantial following in his profession. He served the city as Solicitor for four terms; two terms under the late Sherman Grimes, and two terms under Mr. Delbert Goff, also two terms as Mayor of our city. In addition to the above duties, he has served as local correspondent for the Zanesville Times Recorder since 1908. His counsel is much sought. He merits the confidence and respect of his clients, as well as the general public.

### BARBERS

From the beginning of time down to the present age, the Barber Shop has not only been a place for Tonsorial Treatment, but it has served as a "Bureau of Information". All important questions are discussed and settled in the barber shops. To be a good barber means more than knowing how to use the shears and razor. The barber must be well informed on all local matters of his village, moral, civic, political, and religious. In fact, he must be able to speak fluently on all such matters to be a successful barber.

I am reminded of the old poem in the McGuffey Reader which reads as follows:

"Here stands a shrew barber with razor in hand  
Both shaving and talking as fast as he can  
No man in the village has more to say, etc."

The following named persons have been engaged in the barber business in Crooksville: John F. Stoneburner, Jerry Folden, J. J. McFarland, Ray Aston, Wm. Drake, Cecil Herring, Charles Newlon, Frank Hixenbaugh, David Miller, Fred Allen, A. L. Ewing, Phillip Erving, Carl Cohagen, Sam Cohagen, Henry Cohagen, George Wright, Frank McDaniel, Billy Williams, Estel Williams, Billy Johnson, Grant Pearson, Bill Evans, Bert Fitzer, Wm. Spangler, Elmo Maggart, Bert Reed, Reverend Father John Frecker, T. B. David, Earl Watson, Wm. McCray, Dr. Wm. J. Moody, Bob Moody, Howard Price, Wm. Kester, Reverend John Loudenslauger, Levi W. McFarland, Clint and Chester King, Bert Williams, Dwight Talbot, Frank Sisk, Henry Sisk, Paul Curl, and Beatty Carson.

Lee McFarland opened his place of business 43 years ago. The writer was one of his first customers and still gets his hair cut every two weeks in Lee's shop and is satisfied. Dr. Allen has been found regularly in his chair for 39 years. We like to keep posted. Lee always has the news. Chet King comes forward and makes a statement that he opened his shop 38 years ago and every two weeks since that time he has cut Billie French's hair. Never missed one time. If Billie was sick he called at his home and did his work. Billie has placed his seal on this statement.

Paul Curl opened his shop 21 years ago. He makes the statement that at no time in the 21 years has Ross Curl had his hair cut or been shaved in any other shop, and further says no money has ever changed hands. He is just a good old Daddy. (You're next Ross.) He always claims that Chas. (Spider) Watts has had all his tonsorial work done in his shop during the years he has been in business. Spider is his uncle, but he makes him pay the bill.

It is with much regret that we report the death of Lee McFarland which took place December 23, 1943.





Edwin M. Pitcock, Hardware



Kincaid Brothers Department Store

### SECRET ORDERS

Crooksville has supported many secret orders; viz., Rechabites, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, (IOOF) Encampment and Auxiliary to the IOOF, Daughters of Rebekah, Knights of Pythias, Pythian Sisters, F. & A. Masons, Eastern Stars, Independent Order of Redmen, Prince of Cables, Fraternal Order of Moose, Fraternal Order of Eagles, United American Mechanics, and probably others.

### KINCAID BROTHERS

Kincaid Brothers, Crooksville's oldest department store, was established by F. E. Kincaid, A. M. Kincaid and W. D. Kincaid on May 4, 1903 in the Odd Fellows building. They had purchased the stock of Moore and McKeever, the former occupants, which consisted of women's and men's ready to wear, floor coverings, yard goods and groceries.

In 1907 W. D. Kincaid sold his interest to the other two brothers.

As the years passed and the business prospered, more room was needed. So, in the fall of 1914, Kincaid brothers moved across the street to the Cusick building. In their new location they added another item, wallpaper.

In the spring of 1925, to make room for their rapidly growing business, they decided to quit the grocery business. A sale was advertised and the groceries were closed out.

On January 1, 1926 F. E. Kincaid purchased the Store interest of A. M. Kincaid. The name Kincaid Brothers was retained.

Again in 1940 expansion was felt necessary. After several months of preparation, which included remodeling of building, installation of new store equipment, buying and displaying of new merchandise, Kincaid brothers opened in August 1940 in their present location in the King Building.

### INDUSTRIAL CENTER

The principal industries are mining and pottery. In the early days all the mines were pick mines, working from 3 to 12 men, supplying the homes, and occasionally loading



a railroad car and shipping to other towns and cities. The potteries were small log potteries scattered throughout the surrounding country. Their wares were sold to stoneware agents or stoneware runners and shipped into the market. The demand for coal and pottery increased. Outside capital was not attracted. Many of the laboring men were economical and dependable. Working men who saved a few honest dollars pooled their savings, opened and equipped larger mines. The potters did likewise, and built larger potteries, and their business prospered. It is doubtful if there is another town in the state of Ohio of the same population that has paid as high wages per capita as Crooksville. Under the above conditions, Crooksville has grown and prospered. Outside capital was attracted, and in later years has invested considerable amount of money in the various industries, necessitating such interests as the Ohio Fuel Gas Company, Industrial Gas Corporation, The Ohio Power Company, Eastern Telephone Service Company, Knight Pottery Company, Ceramic Supply Company affiliated with the Allied Engineering Company of Cleveland, Ohio, employing many people, adding large sums of money to Crooksville, high payroll records. It is to be regretted however, with a population of 3500 residents, that we have in a certain degree lost the high virtue of civic pride. It is true we have many beautiful homes, churches, and schools, yet many of our streets need to be widened, paved with hard surface finish, side walks laid, alleys cleaned, etc. We are sadly in need of a sewerage system, small parks with shade trees and flowers blooming, unsightly scenes cleared from streets, wholesome amusement, and recreation parks for children. A well organized "Civic League" with capable leadership would unquestionably solve this regrettable situation. Crooksville is not the worst town in the State of Ohio, neither is it the best town. It is made up of 3500 citizens chuck full of patriotic, loyal, charitable, honest, pious, and sympathetic souls as can be found in any other city in the state of Ohio of the same size. We are proud to be a part of this good little city.

**BUSINESS MEN OF FORMER YEARS****GENERAL MERCHANDISE**

Following are the names of individuals and firms who have been engaged in the general mercantile business since Crooksville was founded: Joseph E. Crooks, Crooks & Moore, James Moore, Howerth & Bowers, Burley & Winter, W. T. Winter, George N. (Kiser) Wilson, George P. Tedrow, Wm. C. (Dresback) Brown, S. H. Brown, Asbury Garlinger, Stoneburner & Taylor, John F. Stoneburner, H. E. Stoneburner, John Ballou, E. L. Taylor, Springer Bros., Young & Larmer, Fred E. Young, P. E. Carpenter, Carpenter & Moore, Straten Brothers, Shelton & Wetzel, Lewis Wetzel, Theodore Brown, Van Atta and Hazlett, Charles Hammond, Roy Hammond, Hammond & Wilson, Leonard Dawson, Crooks & Bennett, Peter Brothers, Charles Whitehouse, George Garlinger, Moore & Evans, Jack Rouse, Charles Stought, Kincaid Brothers, and Fred E. Bennett.

**DRY GOODS, SHOES & CLOTHING**

Wilcox Brothers, Stine & Son, Tague & Taylor, Robert Griffith, Thomas & Artman, G. H. Artman, Wm. Barner.

**HARDWARE DEALERS**

W. R. Calkins (A. E. Faine, Mgr.), Crooksville Hardware Company, C. E. Foreman, W. A. Brown, Arthur Smith, Gobel & Son, Smith & Allen, Wallace Hardware Co., Glass Brothers, Edwin M. Pitcock, Walter T. Singer.

**MEAT MARKETS**

German & Richards, J. H. Printz, William Wilson, Charles Hammond, Foraker & Shelton, Benton Foraker, Washington Shelton, Allie DeLong, Roy Hammond, Hammond & Wilson, Salem Pierce, George Hankinson.

**BAKERIES**

Charles Bucknor, Printz & Bucknor, Edward Lowry, Taylor & Jewell, Frank P. Tedrow, Bert Smith, Wm. (Kid) Davis, Harry Hazlett.

**FRUIT & CONFECTIONS**

Jacob Joseph, Abe Joseph and Tony Joseph.

**JEWELERS**

Frank Stebbins, W. H. Bolin, Gerald Stine, A. E. Sargent, Howard Spung.

### **BUILDERS SUPPLIES**

W. A. Showers Co., A. E. Smith, H. E. Pettit, Emerson Groff, Glass Bros.

### **LIVERY STABLES**

G. L. Driggs, Burley & Talkenberg, Koons Brothers, Leonard Dawson, P. E. Carpenter.

### **SHOE MAKING AND REPAIRS**

Jacob Moore, Isaac Newton, David Kinnan, Henry Frecker, Andy Flood, John Cork, Sr.

The above establishments did business in Crooksville before the automobile had been born.

### **LIQUOR DEALERS**

Before the days of prohibition there were many different persons engaged in the liquor business in Crooksville. At one time there were 17 licensed saloons. They were subject to the local option laws that prevailed at that time, being voted in and out at various elections before the Eighteenth Amendment was made a part of our Constitution. During the years of Prohibition, there was no legalized liquor within the municipality. However, some bootlegging prevailed. Yet in the writer's opinion, the town was more prosperous under the dry regime.

### **OUR SCHOOLS**

#### **1. THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION TO CROOKSVILLE**

The constant output of well educated, well balanced young men and women is of vital importance to any community. Crooksville with its constant need for a volume of skilled and semi-skilled workers and its ever present need for homemakers that can and will provide the proper domestic setting for these workers must have a well planned system of public schools.

With but a small flow of population from beyond its borders, Crooksville necessarily must train its own industrial, civic, and professional leadership. Most of the recent changes in management of local industry has promoted young men that are Crooksville products.

Professional leadership is more likely to shift from town to town but one of our local doctors is a Crooksville



High graduate and over half of our teachers are Crooksville products. In the professional field we recognize that we owe to the young people that will be teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, and the like in other cities the best possible preparation that we can afford to give them. They must be equipped to compete with the best from large city schools.

The American way of life teaches that the best citizen of a democracy is the well informed citizen. Today, more education is needed for intelligent American and World citizenship than ever before. Our men and women must be able to choose intelligently between good and bad, between right and wrong when they select their leaders whether they be council members, board of education members or members of Congress.

Approximately 90% of Crooksville's citizens get all of their formal education in the local schools. These schools must provide constantly wider horizons, both intellectual and spiritual if the splendid progress of Crooksville's past is to be carried forward.

## 2. A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE CROOKSVILLE SCHOOLS

In 1869, when my father moved into this neighborhood, the only educational institution to be found was a little frame school building on the Burley Run Saltillo Road, one mile west of the Pennsylvania Railroad track. This little frame building still stands on this same foundation and is in a fairly good state of preservation, converted into a domicile occupied by two old veterans, the honorable William Hiles and Ephraham Harris, awaiting the bugle call after many years of hard toil and labor.

It was in this building that I first entered to learn my A. B. C.'s in the year of 1871. It was at the beginning of a summer term of two months for the children. Miss Mary DeLong was the teacher. The terms started 71 years ago this (May) month, yet I can quite well remember Miss DeLong's face. She wore a smile that I have never forgotten. She taught me my letters and a little more in this two months, and on the last day of school she treated her scholars to a few sticks of candy. School closed and we



Burley Run School House — 1870

took our books and went home to play until the winter term of four months started in November. This little school house was more than a school house. It was a kindergarten, primary, elementary, junior, and senior high, yet, to many it was a college. The attendance was made up of all ages from 6 to 21 years, reciting to one teacher in one room, learning their letters, spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and history. The teacher's desk was between the two doors facing the scholars. In each corner of one room at his right and left was a cupboard for the scholars' dinner buckets or baskets. On the top a shelf for the boys' hats and caps and the girls' sun-bonnets, hoods, and shawls. Between the windows and across the rear of the room were blackboards and a long recitation bench. The seats and desks were handmade out of rough boards planed and painted. There was a shelf under the top of the desk for books, writing paper, and slates. The back on the seats was a part of the front of the desk and was perfectly straight. The girls sat on the right of the room facing the teacher and the boys on the left. On opening and closing school, the girls were not permitted to go into or out of the room through the left door, neither could the boys pass through the right door. The center aisle separated the girls from the boys during the hours of study. When the teacher rang the little bell, calling the school from play to books, the boys as they entered the door did not stop to lay their hats or caps on the top of the cupboard, but would give them a whirl and they would light softly in their places.

In those days there were boys coming to school who would forget to wash their face and hands or comb their hair before coming to school. Sometimes they wet their hair and would comb the front, leaving the back uncombed with dirty water running down over their faces. These boys were constantly scratching their heads. When the school room warmed up, it was not long until practically all the boys and some of the girls joined the uncombed heads and scratched their heads. The facts in the case the teacher scratched his head also. It was a lousy bunch. It makes my head itch to think of it. The teacher, Mr. John Pace, demanded that sanitary conditions be improved,





**PICTURE OF THE FIRST BURLEY RUN SCHOOL, 52 YEARS AGO. SAM GORDEN, TEACHER**

Left to Right—TOP ROW—Emmett Watts, Bronson Wastall, Sarah King Klingler, Floyd Cannon, Charlie Cannon, Ed Stoneburner, Newton Dunn, Lettie Diltz Orr, Ed Watts, Effie Stoneburner Tatman, Chester Cannon.

Left to Right—SECOND ROW—Clarence Watts, Charlie Stoneburner, Maude Kinnan Cannon, Etta Dunn, Maggie Watts Coulter, Addie Dunn Mewlon, Laura Stoneburner Allen, Effie Burley Giles, Laura Kinnan Stoneburner, Lucy Watt Giles, Lula Burley, William Stoneburner, Fred Diltz, Nick Watt, Sam Gorden, teacher.

Left to Right—THIRD ROW—George Burley, Lucy Stoneburner Cook, Nellie Burley Neff, Ella Stoneburner Aichele, Bertha Watt Ford, Maude Moore Wilson.

Left to Right—FOURTH ROW—Frankie Dailey, Gene Watts, Catherine Finley, May Finley Shanner, Curtis Moore, Mattie Finley Thomas, Annie Stoneburner Hunt, Katie Cannon, Dellie Finley.

Left to Right—LAST ROW—Sitting Down—Frank Watts, Ollie King, Warren Ball, Harry Stoneburner, Ralph Kinnan, Wilson Dunn, John Stoneburner, and Arthur Burley.

hands and faces washed with soap, hair combed down as slick as a peeled onion before entering the school room. In order to impress the scholars that he meant business, a bundle of switches was laid across his desk to be used in enforcing this new ruling. It worked. The ruling found its way into the homes, and the parents supported the teacher, and the trouble was soon removed. Yet this was not all. Another problem arose. It was contagious. One family of several children came one morning with itching hands. Between their fingers were festered sores. As they joined hands with other scholars in play, soon all hands were in the same condition. It was a case of old fashioned itch that spread throughout the entire school and community. Sulphur asafetida, copperus and other similar remedies were in demand, and the disease passed out.

The school was called to order. The little tots came up and stood at the teacher's knee to learn their letters. Next the small spelling class, then the first readers, second readers, third readers, fourth readers, fifth readers, and sixth readers, classes recited separately. First, second, and third arithmetic classes were called. The geography classes, grammar classes and algebra. The blackboard was used much in connection with the various classes, recitations, working examples in arithmetic, drawing maps and locating cities, rivers, and lakes in geography, writing sentences, and making analysis of the nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. in our grammar lessons. It was interesting to the smaller scholars to look on and listen. W. J. (Biddy) Watts was an expert in figuring his arithmetic lesson on the board.

The day was fastly drawing to a close. There remained 15 minutes for penmanship. The teacher would write a copy on the blackboard. All the scholars would copy it in their copy books from which the teacher would grade our penmanship. We used the Spencerian System, free hand, hair stroke, and the shading of the capital letters. Penmanship was an art in those days, and there were many masters of penmanship that came out of the public schools. (A lost art today.)

Ten minutes until closing time. The spelling class is called. We took our places around the room, standing



The East Grade School



against the wall. The teacher pronounced the words. If you missed spelling the word, the scholar spelling it correctly took your place and you stepped down to his or her place below nearer the foot of the class. The person at the head of the class held their place until they missed a word, then they would surrender their place to the scholar who spelled the word correctly. There were some splendid spellers in the schools that were hard to turn down. Friday afternoon, after recess, the remainder of the day was usually given to spelling. Two scholars would take their places, one at the head of the east the other at the head of the west aisles and choose up (we always called it) until all but the smallest children were called. The teachers would pronounce the words to be spelled from McGuffey's speller. As fast as you missed a word, you retired to a seat. Usually I never got tired standing, being one among the first to miss a word, and I took my seat. The spelling was continued until all had been spelled down except the head of the class. The school was dismissed until Monday morning.

Crooksville had become quite a little village, and the enrollment had more than doubled until more than 100 scholars were crowded into this one room. No teachers could do justice under the circumstances, and the Directors of the school made application to the township Board of Education for an appropriation sufficient to build an addition to the building large enough to accommodate the primary grades and in 1876 or 77 (I am not certain) the addition was built, and by 1880 the enrollment had again outgrown the building; hence, the district was divided and the first school building of one room only was built in Crooksville on the same lot that the East school building now stands, and in November 1880, the first term of school was taught in Crooksville, James J. Walpole, an elderly man who had taught school for many years, who was rated as one of the leading educational men of Muskingum County, and who had been retired from the profession for several years was persuaded to teach the first term of school in this new building. Mr. Walpole was of the old school in teaching and discipline. He believed that the rod was more powerful than the word and he never hesitated to use it if



The North Grade School

his rules were disobeyed, yet he was a fine teacher and you had to learn your lessons under his teaching. After the scholars learned his discipline and became acquainted with him, they learned to love and respect him. He taught the highest standard of morality, truthfulness, and honesty, in connection with his work as a teacher of education that it was my privilege to be associated with. He taught two terms, but owing to his age he could not be persuaded to continue longer.

My school days ended in the year of 1881, at which time I lost contact with the public schools. From 1881 to 1905 during this period the schools expanded in proportion with the growth of the town, yet no record of the names of the persons who served as teachers can be found. There was no general supervision. The following named persons were among those who served as teachers: Edward Durant, Will J. Dusenberg, Frank M. Reed, John Dugan, W. A. Dunn, John E. Taylor, Rollo Walter Brown, Herbert E. Brown, Charles Beard, Curtis Taylor, Clarence O. Koehler, Harley Stotler, Lilian Aid Bowers, Flo Dunn Tatman, Mary V. Dunn, Vinnie Burgoon and Arthur Deaver.

In 1889, a two story building was built on the West side of town consisting of two rooms, and in 1890, the one room school building on the East side was set over to one corner of the school grounds and used as a residence. A new two story building consisting of two rooms was built on the same spot where the one room building had stood. In 1897, two additional rooms were added to this building. At this time, Mr. M. G. Calhoun came to Crooksville, organized the first high school and was elected Superintendent of our Schools. Mr. Calhoun served as Superintendent from 1898 to 1901 and again from 1905 to 1911. He very definitely left his stamp on the character of the Crooksville Schools during a period of rapid expansion. The period between the two Calhoun administrations was filled by two superintendents; Mr. G. L. Brown, 1901-1903 and Mr. G. W. DeLong, 1903-1905. Mr. Brown and Mr. DeLong were born and reared on farms within one mile of Crooksville. Mr. Brown was a graduate of the Northwestern University of Ada, Ohio. Mr. DeLong completed his training at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. They were well quali-





The Junior High School

fied for their position, men of character, and stood for high ideals and commanded the respect of the patrons of our schools.

From 1911 to 1923 the destinies of the Crooksville Schools were in the hands of Mr. E. D. Bates. Mr. Bates was a quiet, scholarly man and one of the outstanding school superintendents of Southeastern Ohio. During the twelve years of his administration, the Crooksville Schools made the transition from the old fashioned, as we now see it, to the modern ideas of education. Subjects and techniques of instruction unheard of in the last century were introduced in rapid succession, and the local education system kept fully abreast of the times. To take care of the rapid expansion, the Board of Education rented several vacant rooms for educational purposes in which different grades were housed awaiting the completion of the new building under construction.

Two new buildings were added to the school facilities of Crooksville and the plans for the present Senior High School were laid during the Bates administration. In the fall of 1923, Mr. Bates was succeeded by Mr. John E. Stage who remained as Superintendent until 1930. Mr. Stage supervised the building of the Senior High School building and the purchase of the new equipment. The famous oil boom of the late 20's expanded the local schools to the peak enrollment, the 1,000 mark. However, the end of the oil rush dropped the enrollment back to normal 700 to 800.

In 1930 the Superintendency went to W. Dwight Darling, who came to Crooksville from Carroll, Ohio, with Howard A. Zollinger as Principal. Mr. Darling remained until the summer of 1942 when he entered the U. S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant. He was given an indefinite leave of absence, and Mr. Zollinger was named as acting Superintendent.

At the request of the writer, Mr. Darling has very kindly submitted the following information as to the expansion of our schools under his Administration as follows:

"The early history of the Crooksville Schools and the story of the accomplishments of these schools despite many handicaps has already been related in this work. From the



The Senior High School



founding of Crooksville up to 1930, the constant increase in population kept the schools under a pressure for continued physical expansion. The first planned program for expansion to a modern school system seems to have been put into effect in 1904 with the completion of the two large brick buildings still known as the East and West schools. This forward step followed the chartering of a first grade high school in 1901.

By 1912, the pressure of increased school attendance plus the demand for better facilities brought another building program. The North Elementary School, the present Junior High Building, then the High School, were built. Both buildings were completed in 1914. In 1924 the present High School was completed. Those who planned this last step anticipated a continued increase in population and provided space that has not yet been needed.

Up to 1928, the Crooksville schools had been operated as a unit of the Perry County Schools. There were both advantages and disadvantages to the county system tie-up. In theory, the county provides expert supervision from the County Superintendent and his staff. The many common problems of a number of similar school systems are thought to be solved by common action under the guidance of the County Superintendent.

Crooksville school leaders in the late 20's felt that the disadvantages of the county connection outweighed the advantages. Crooksville had become the only fully industrialized city in the county and its educational needs differed from the mining centers and agricultural communities that made up the remainder of Perry County. It was felt that county politics were playing too large a part in the county school set-up and that Crooksville's progress was resented by the more conservative parts of the county.

As a result, the Crooksville Board of Education took advantage of a section of the Ohio School Laws that provided for exemption from county supervision for districts of 3,000 population or more if the Board so legislated. In September, 1929, Crooksville became an exempted village school district. This step gave the local Board of Education and its Superintendent full authority over the schools limited only by state statute and regulations of the State



### PUPILS OF WEST SIDE SCHOOL IN 1900

FIRST ROW—BACK—John Giles, George Wilson, Carrie Fair, Catherine Moore, Dillon Wilson, Wilson Burley, Ezra Brown, Frank Wilson, Herbert Cannon, Vesta Pitcock, Katie Brown, Ella Stoneburner, Fred Cook.  
 SECOND ROW—Herbert McFarland, John Taylor, teacher, Omar Nelson, Maggie Richards, Lulu German, Callie Tedrow, Grace Moore, Ella Pitcock, Bessie Berry, Ed Giles, Katie Moore, Wilson Whitehouse, Gertie McKeever.  
 THIRD ROW—FRONT—Guy Cook, Mary Boring, Clara Moore, Bertha Sanborn, Leola Taylor, Stella Whitehouse, Katie Allard, Frank Watts, Mosie Tedrow.

Department of Education. Crooksville was also relieved of payment to the County Board. It had been the largest contributor.

1930 was the peak year for the Crooksville Schools so far as attendance was concerned. Over 900 children were enrolled in the elementary and high schools. A staff of 33 teachers handles the five buildings. An all time high of 93 six year olds started their education. From 1930 to 1940 the population of Crooksville declined and the school population declined even more rapidly to a low of 640 in 1940. In 1941 the tide turned with a first grade of 63 and a total enrollment approaching 700.

During this period of shrinking enrollment and declining revenues, school officials were hard pressed to keep educational standards up to the high level that Crooksville people expected. The faculty was reduced a teacher at a time to 21 and a number of elective subjects had to be dropped from the high school curriculum. The effects of the Great Depression were not all bad. Greater care was used in the selection of teachers. More responsibility for excellence of work fell on both teacher and pupil. Crooksville Schools entered the 1940's smaller but better organized and with a definite philosophy of what education was most needed for the youth of our community.

### 3. CROOKSVILLE SCHOOLS OF TODAY

As mentioned in the previous section, the Crooksville Schools are compactly organized today. Depression retrenchment forced the Board to abandon the old West Elementary Building due to shortage of teachers and inability to finance the up-keep of the building. West was finally sold to the local Knights of Pythias Lodge.

The present organization provides two buildings for the elementary schools, North and East buildings. The North school houses all of grades 1-4 who live west of the Pennsylvania tracks. The High School covers the upper six years of the 12 years of schooling offered our youth. These grades are housed in the two buildings on South Buckeye Street. The old High School, now known as the Junior High Building, provides home room space for the four sections of grades 7 and 8, the industrial arts shop and the music department. The Senior High Building houses





### PUPILS OF EAST SIDE SCHOOL IN 1895

BACK ROW—STANDING—Mrs. Flo Dunn Tatman, teacher, Francis Winter, Addie Brown Coulter, Nora McClellan, Bessie Berry, Stella Koontz Dawson, Edith Tatman Black, Grace Neff, Bertha Sowers Hazlett, Guy Winter, John Spencer, W. A. Dunn, teacher; Tom Winter, Harry Allen, Tom Cusick, William O. Dunn, "Emp" Tidbaugh, Danford Neff, Ralph Hull, and Ray Watts.

SECOND ROW—SEATED ON CHAIRS—Celia Rose, Blanche Coulter, Katie Showers Dunn, Daisy Bess Clayton, Edna Garrett, Nellie Manley, Stella Jones McGuire, Mae Wright Allen, Ethel Rambo, Maggie Jones Guinsler, Irena Hixenbaugh, Ethel Hixenbaugh, Ida Hiles, Nettie Ansel, Edith Rambo Woods, and Clyda Young Dusenberry.

FRONT ROW—SEATED ON GROUND—Charlie Bess, Floyd Hull, Johnny Young, Wilbur Hixenbaugh, Glenn Wigton, Guy Rambo, Roy Tatman, Eddie Rose, James Printz, Frank C. Dunn, Ralph Young, Raymond Spencer, Fred Printz, Emmett Gray.

the home rooms for two sections of grade 9, as well as the single section grades 10, 11, and 12. A modern well equipped home economics department occupies two large rooms, a small model dining room, a storage room and a laundry room on the first floor. The second floor includes the science suite of a laboratory and lecture room, two offices, the commercial room, a general class room and the teachers' rest room. The third floor level provides space for a large study hall that seats 120, a library, the visual education room, history room and English room.

An excellent gymnasium with dressing rooms for boys and girls, ample storage rooms and a physical director's office are combined with a stage complete with small dressing room to make a rather unsatisfactory auditorium. The gym playing floor is one of the largest in this section of the state. Rest rooms for boys and girls connect with the respective dressing rooms. A bank of five furnaces in the sub-basement provide adequate heating.

A number of successful citizens of the town were consulted informally as to their ideas of what the schools should provide. Although the attempt to introduce a course in ceramics to fit into the town's largest industry failed, the Superintendent of Schools and the High School Principal gleaned some valuable information from industrial leaders. The potters were not enthused about a ceramics course but they were sold on the idea of educating for good citizenship and Christian living.

The Commercial Department has a large pleasant room on the main floor of the Senior High Building, 20 typewriters, an adding machine, a mimeograph machine, and a small filing case. Better filing equipment and a posting machine are needed.

The two practical arts departments, home economics, and industrial arts, probably more than any other divisions of the school carry out the philosophy of direct preparation for life. The girls in the home economic department learn by doing. They make dresses, slips, underthings, and learn to make overcoats and to practice other economics. They study child care, diets, and clothing. They study home decoration, selection of furniture, and buying for the home. They prepare and serve full meals; breakfasts, lunches, and

dinners. They practice giving parties to each other. They serve a few large groups during the year to learn how to function better in church and club groups. Home Economics in a three year course is elective, that is, the girls may or may not take it.

Due to a lack of demand, the foreign language department in the Crooksville Schools has declined from a four year course in two languages to a two year course.

Music is the only one of the fine arts that receives full time attention in the Crooksville Schools. The public schools thus furnish instruction that formerly cost the parents considerable sums of money. The goal of all instrumental work is to "make" one of the High School bands or orchestras.

#### 4. CROOKSVILLE SUPPORTS ITS SCHOOLS

Few communities in Ohio have such a record of voter support for the public schools as has Crooksville. For over 20 years, the local voters have provided an extra levy for school support of 3 mills. This levy has never failed to pass and no group has ever openly opposed its passage. In 1940, the renewal of the 3 mill levy received the highest percentage of favorable votes of any levy voted in the State of Ohio that year. In 1941, the voters were asked to add 2 mills for 2 years to their tax bill in an effort to bring the school pay roll up to date. This passed by a vote of 78% while only one vote beyond the 50% mark was required.

With few exceptions Crooksville voters have elected interested, level headed men of ability to their Board of Education. That the community is really democratic is demonstrated by the diversity of occupations and social status represented on the Board. The present Board includes a mine superintendent, a pottery worker, a garage operator, an Ohio Power employee, and a foreman of the Columbia Cement plant.

#### 5. CROOKSVILLE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE

A book could be written on the plans for the future of the Crooksville Schools. Progressive, dynamic education can never rest on the oars of past accomplishments or present attainment. Financial support is the great unsolved problem to face in an expansion of opportunity that is to be offered to Crooksville's youth. A large state treasury sur-



plus gives some hope for further efforts to equalize the school offerings in the State. Crooksville at present has about \$3,500 in taxable property for each child in school. This is far below the state average. Many schools have over \$10,000 per child. The result is that money is plentiful in the richer districts and is often wasted while people in the poorer districts tax themselves heavily and wonder at the difference between their school equipment and others.

The present tendency in Crooksville is toward a larger population. If this continues, teachers will have to be added and more equipment and text books provided.

Further increase in the practical arts offered in the High School is planned. We hope to be offering five years of home economics and five years of industrial arts in the near future. Both courses now start in the 8th grade. This increase will carry both courses through the 12th grade.

It is hoped that more attention to the teaching of reading in all grades will be a future development. Reading clinics for all teachers would help if and when a reading specialist can be obtained for several visits yearly. A program of visitation to other progressive school systems for all teachers is being considered.

Come what may, the Crooksville Schools plan to be of constant interest to the people of Crooksville and will guarantee their children to be better future citizens."

I am quite sure Mr. Darling's contribution to the present position of the Crooksville Public Schools will be of great interest to the readers of our book, and the writer takes this opportunity to express his highest appreciation of his cooperation.

As I sit at my home year after year and watch the school children pass by to and from our high school, it seems impossible that within a few decades so much has been accomplished in the advancement of education. The products of our schools are scattered all over the world, holding responsible positions of trust with honor and dignity in business, industry, education, professions, banking, railroading, civic and governmental affairs. Perhaps 75% of our teachers are graduates of our Crooksville Schools. Our leading industries are managed by graduates of our local schools. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR SCHOOLS.



The Methodist Episcopal Church

## OUR CHURCHES

### METHODIST CHURCH

There was living in this community, many years ago, a few people known as Methodists. They had no church in which they could assemble together and worship. They were deprived of the fellowship that belonged to the children of God. They frequently assembled together in homes for a prayer service where they would sing the songs of Zion, pour out their hearts in praise and thanksgiving to God, yet they wanted a church, an altar, a Zion, dedicated to God for worship only. They organized a society of a few people known as the "John Wesley" Methodist Episcopal Society, and employed an ordained Methodist minister to preach at least once a month. Their idea was to build a church they could call their own. They appointed a committee to select a location and purchase the ground along the highway in the center of the community on what is now known as Route 669. After careful and prayerful consideration, the lot on which the present Methodist Church now stands was purchased from David R. Reed and Elizabeth Reed for the sum of Ten Dollars. To be exact, this transaction took place May 1st, 1851. A building was erected the same year and dedicated to the Lord, known as "Fletcher Chapel", and made a part of the "Roseville Circuit." Sad to say, this building was destroyed by fire in the year of 1861 and another building was erected on the same plan the same year. This edifice served the people for almost thirty-five years. During this time the village of Crooksville sprang into existence. Quite a few people of other denominations and faith shared with the Methodists in worship until the little church was too small to accommodate all the people.

In the year of 1894, Thomas G. Wakefield was appointed pastor of the Roseville circuit, and at his first service in Fletcher Chapel (he stated later) the Lord impressed very keenly upon his mind that he must build a new and larger church. This he proceeded to do. The old church building was moved from its foundation, and a new modern and much larger building was erected, and on the 3rd day of November 1895, the new edifice was dedicated to the Lord by the late Bishop Moore.



The estate of the late Jacob Reed was disposed of and laid out in town lots and streets and the population increased very rapidly. Once more the Methodist church was inadequate to serve the membership. The Roseville circuit was divided in the year of 1898. Fletcher Chapel and Iliff were made a half circuit, and Reverend T. G. Danford became the pastor. This arrangement was continued until 1904, at which time Crooksville was made a station, and Iliff and Rehoboth became a half circuit.

In the year of 1906, E. Stacey Matheny was appointed the pastor of the Crooksville Methodist Church. The parsonage at that time was a very ordinary building, not modern, neither properly constructed for a parsonage. Reverend Matheny was not only a minister and pastor, but he was an architect of no small ability. After making his pastoral calls in the homes of his parishioners, he would return to his study and devote a portion of his time in planning a new parsonage. Later, plans for a new and modern parsonage was presented to his Official Board and adopted. The old parsonage was sold, moved to another location, and the present parsonage erected. Then Reverend Matheny dreamed of a "Modern Church" that would be in keeping with the parsonage, saying, "The Lord would not put his seal on the act of the Official Board that would build a better home for their minister to live in than the house they expected the Lord to forever dwell in." So deeply did he plant this thought in the hearts of his parish and friends that in the year of 1909 the present edifice was dedicated to the Lord by the late Dr. T. C. Iliff (the lovable "Tommy Iliff" a McLuney boy).

Since the dedication of the first church in the year of 1851, the following named ministers have served as pastors of the Crooksville Methodist Church:

Stephen Merrill—Samuel Harvey	1851
Benjamin Ellis	1852
Edward P. Hall	1853
Noah Speck—R. T. Black	1854
W. C. Filler	1855
Richard Doughty	1856-7
H. D. Fink—W. B. Chadwick	1858
David Mann—Robert Manley	1859

Robert Manley—Henry Lomis	1860
Henry Lomis	1861
R. D. Anderson	1862 3
Stephen Ryland	1864 6
B. F. Thomas	1867 9
J. T. Lewis	1870 1
David Smith	1872 3
W. J. Griffith	1874-5
J. W. Baker	1876-7
J. Q. Lakin	1878 9
I. M. Sollars	1880 82
J. L. Durant	1883 4
L. C. Haddox	1885-7
W. T. Harvey	1888 9
T. J. Danford	1890-92
G. W. Marshall	1893
T. G. Wakefield	1894-95
T. J. Danford	1898
Uriah Holcomb	1899
P. H. Fry	1900-1
B. R. Thomas	1902
D. R. Reese	1903
D. D. Canfield	1904-5
E. Stacey Matheny	1906-14
Paul E. Kemper	1914 17
Charles Laughlin	1917-18
Wesley E. Tilton	1918-24
George M. Hughes	1924-26
Ray L. Cross	1926-28
E. W. Elrod	1929-30
L. Ermil Butler	1931-36
Paul E. Ertel	1936-39
Norman Sweat	1939-42
Everett E. Mosslander	1942

With the exception of a few, all the above men have passed on to their reward and their works do follow them. Those who are still living are as follows: D. R. Reese, D. D. Canfield, E. Stacey Matheny, Wesley E. Tilton, George M. Hughes, Ray L. Cross, Elrod, Paul E. Ertel, Norman Sweat, and Everett E. Mosslander.

The Reverend Robert I. DeSelm and Dr. Melvin C.



The United Brethren Church



Coulter were called by God to the ministry from this church. Robert DeSelm for many years was a "Circuit Rider", serving some of the most desirable circuits in the Ohio Conference. Melvin Coulter began his ministry on the Ringgold Circuit, Morgan County, climbing step by step, serving some of the leading churches in the Ohio Conference, at Athens, Dayton, Columbus, and Cincinnati. For several years he was Superintendent of the Dayton District Ohio Conference, and at present is the pastor of Hyde Park Community Church of Cincinnati.

Many laymen and laywomen have been born spiritually at the sacred altar of this beloved church and gone out to bless the world by living a devoted and consecrated life. "I love thy kingdom Lord, The house of thine abode, The church our blessed Redeemer saved, With his own precious blood."

Present membership—567.

### CROOKSVILLE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

"In the latter part of the 19th century when the pottery and mining industry were being developed causing the hamlet of Crooksville to grow into a village, there came here to live, some folks who were members of the U. B. Church. R. D. Brown and his wife Effie Deaver Brown were of this number. Mrs. Brown's father, Reverend Geo. Deaver was a U. B. minister and served as presiding elder for a number of years.

In 1892, these folks got together and organized a class and Reverend McLaughlin being the pastor on the Deavertown Circuit was secured to preach to this class which became a part of the circuit. Permission of the school board was given the new class to meet in the East side school house. This class soon planned to build a church home and Noah Brown, the father of R. D. Brown gave them a lot on Sand Street. Reverend E. Gwartney was assigned to the circuit in 1893 and plans for the building were adopted and construction was begun. At first a small structure was planned but was wisely changed to a larger one which was 32 feet by 50 feet. This building was completed in 1894 and was called Reed's Chapel.

Reverend W. H. Price was assigned to the charge in

1895 and the church had a great revival and about 100 members were added to the class. Reverend Price was a Civil War Veteran. He lived at Junction City, came to work on the train, and walked the circuit. I wonder how many preachers would like a job such as this today. This first building was dedicated by Reverend Bell in 1896.

Reverend C. N. Cantor was the pastor in 1899, serving only one year. Reverend G. B. Weaver followed but did not complete his year which was taken care of by Reverend J. A. Weller who also served the next year. Reverend McLaughlin came next and was followed by Reverend G. H. Sollers, who served the circuit for four years. Through the untiring efforts of Reverend Sollers a parsonage for the circuit was built on the rear of the Crooksville Church lot. The annual conference of the Scioto District was held in Crooksville in 1907, at which time Reverend E. H. Wilson was assigned to the charge. Recognizing the fact that "the fields were white for the harvest" Reverend Wilson threw himself unreservedly into the work and started a protracted meeting in November which grew into a marvelous revival in which about 400 knelt at the altar and were saved. About 300 were added to the class. The attendance at Sunday school and Worship Services was greatly increased, there being standing room only at times. Pastor and Official Board planned for a new church building. The old building was turned about facing Sycamore Street and moved back near to the parsonage over a full sized basement which had been constructed. Thus was the situation relieved for a time. At the Annual Conference in 1908, Crooksville church was detached from the Deavertown Circuit and became a station. The building committee could not see their way to complete the new building at this time and it was postponed to a future date. Reverend Warren followed Reverend Wilson. He resigned before conference, and Reverend D. E. Weaver finished the year as pastor. Reverend A. Orr came on the charge in 1910 and served 3 years. He had faith to believe that the church should be completed, inspired the congregation to pull together and the task was completed in 1912. Again the Annual Conference was held in Crooksville, and Reverend E. E. Harris became the pastor for 3 years, then being as-

signed to a charge near Westerville, where he completed his college course. Reverend Harris is now Editor of "The Watchword," our young people's weekly paper. The new church was dedicated in 1912 by Reverend Phillippi, a general church officer. The following pastors served in order: Reverend G. W. Speakman, 1916; G. H. Hughes, 1917; S. W. Hiles, 1918; George Weir, 1919-20; W. F. Harbert 1921-22. A gracious revival was held in 1921, and the church and Sunday School had the largest attendance at Easter and the largest average for the year in the history of the church.

H. O. Thompson, 1923-24-25; O. W. Smith, 1925-27; L. B. Mignerey, 1928-29-30; Reverend Anderson, 1931-32-33. Reverend Anderson died in June of his third year. Reverend C. A. Walter served 8 years 1934 to 1941 and was the longest pastorate in the history of the church. During his pastorate many improvements were made, such as a new kitchen in the basement, the basement repaired and redecorated, and class rooms for the Sunday School were built in the old church auditorium. Reverend W. L. Kuhen came to the church in 1941. During this pastorate the parsonage has been improved by completing a full basement with cement floor, also storm doors and windows have been installed, also a furnace installed. Rev. Kuhen was succeeded in 1945 by Rev. J. E. Huston.

Of the original twelve charter members, only two remain; Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Brown. Mrs. Brown is a Trustee of the church and is faithful in attendance. The present membership is 503.

The writer became a member of the church in 1896 by transfer. At that time there were about 100 members. Of this number only five remain on the class roll. Which is a reminder that we too must soon go the way of all the earth."

### THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"On the 12th day of April 1894, the family of W. A. Dunn, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, two daughters and three sons, came to Crooksville. They were all members of the Church of Christ, except the youngest. They found but two Disciples of Christ in the village, Mrs. Myrtie Rayhill and her aged mother, Mrs. Abram Morrison. A few



months later in the same year, J. J. Hull and family came from Deavertown and still later Mrs. Hattie Showers and the M. B. Cooper family came from Columbus. Feeling the necessity of a place to worship, this group secured the use of the East Side School House. A. R. Pickens, to whom the church feels deeply indebted, came occasionally and preached. This arrangement continued until June 1898 when a tent meeting was held on the site where the present church building now stands. This lot was donated by J. J. Hull and M. B. Cooper for the purpose of erecting a church building thereon. On June 30, 1898, the church was organized with 35 charter members as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dunn	Mrs. John Ansel
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hull	Mrs. E. U. Tatman
Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Cooper	Mrs. Abram Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kinnan	Mrs. Myrtie Rayhill
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dunn	Miss Sid Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson	Miss Daisy Bess
Dr. and Mrs. E. I. Dozer	Miss Katie Showers
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Rayhill	Miss Mary V. Dunn
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hull	Joseph C. Dunn
Mrs. Hattie Showers	William O. Dunn
Mrs. J. G. Burley	Frank C. Dunn
Mrs. T. H. Brown	Jesse Sands
Mrs. Kate White	Charlie Chandler

This group of people commenced planning to build a house of worship. A small frame building was erected and on December 25, 1898 it was dedicated. The Lord abundantly blessed the work of these people, and within ten years it was necessary to rebuild. The small building was moved back and the present building was erected in front of it. Dedicated January 17, 1909. Part time ministers were A. R. Pickens and C. H. Morin. Then full time ministers were employed as follows:

R. Bentley Ray	Will J. Foster
W. F. Nuzum	Harry M. Wilson
A. C. Shaw	L. M. Griffin
J. P. Ewing	N. B. Martin
C. N. Williams	Wood B. Cundiff
Ward E. Hall	R. LaVerne Ervin
F. F. Sutton	



The Church Of Christ

A spirit of brotherly love prevails in the congregation, and an interest is taken in education, missions, benevolence, and all the activities of the Church of Christ out around the world. Present membership 350."

### CATHOLIC CHURCH HISTORY

St. Dominic's Catholic Church located two miles west of McLuney, Ohio, was struck by lightning and a recreation hall located on the church property was moved to Crooksville in 1897 and erected on South State Street, where services were held during the construction of a new church. The new church and rectory were erected on the corner of Maple Avenue and Winter Street, and the church was dedicated in August 1901 and the name was changed to Church of the Atonement. The pastor in charge of the church removal was Reverend J. J. Cahalan, who was succeeded by the following pastors:

Reverend Father John Maher—1898-1898

Reverend Father J. J. Banks—1898-1899

Reverend Father E. C. Richards—1900-1906

Reverend Father B. J. Mattes—1906-1918

Reverend Father Wm. Sullivan—1919-1919

Reverend Father Wm. C. O'Brian—1919-1926

Reverend Father John J. Diegelman—1926-1931

Reverend Father L. P. Falvey—1931-1945

Reverend Father Joseph A. Hakel—August 16, 1945

the last named being the present pastor; formerly Professor of Latin and Greek at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

In 1929 the present church was enlarged at a cost of \$22,000.00.

When Fr. L. P. Falvey was placed in charge of the Church of the Atonement, on the first day of September 1931, by Most Reverend Bishop James J. Hartley, D.D. of Columbus, Ohio, the Bishop had decided to make the parish independent from the Mission, St. Pius Church, Moxahala. In some respects the Atonement parish grew out of the old mission at South Fork. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Fr. B. J. Mattes that the beautiful new church was erected, built along the lines of a little Spanish Mission on the highway to Corning.





Church Of The Atonement

On the first day of September 1931, Rev. Fr. Lucius Kessler was placed in charge of St. Pius Church. From this time the priest in Crooksville was to give his entire service to the parish in Crooksville. This was quite a task for the present pastor, as the parish was getting smaller, many of the older members were answering the call of the angel of death, as the years went by. Others left the parish for the nearby cities. In some cases whole families moved outside the parish limits. Over 40 young men have answered the call to the colors. At the time of the separation from St. Pius, Moxahala, the parish was carrying over \$8,000 debt. The remaining debt was part of the \$22,000 used to enlarge the church. During this time, Crooksville was beginning to feel the effects of the depression of 1929. Work slowed up in the industries in our town. The pastor did not fear the task given to him by the Bishop as he felt sure the people of Crooksville would come to his aid. Many thinking people realize that the Church is the heart of the city or town. One wonders what a city or town would be like without Churches. As we know, Crooksville is blessed with many churches which have been served by learned Ministers and Priests who have worked together in a common cause, Christian Education.

This year, the pastor and people are working to clear the parish of the remaining \$3,000 of the \$22,000 church debt. The church assumed this debt in its enlargement program under the pastorate of Rev. Fr. John N. Diegelman, whose health gave way, causing the burden to be placed on the shoulders of his successor.

It was the wish and desire of the late Bishop James J. Hartley, D.D. of Columbus to erect a Parish School in Crooksville. He had talked several times about this matter, especially about purchasing suitable ground for the building. Sunday School classes are conducted by the Sisters of Charity from St. Bernard's Parish, Corning. Church Societies were reorganized; The Holy Name, The Victorians, The Altar and Rosary, The Young Ladies Sodality, The Legion of Decency, The Confraternity of The Blessed Sacrament.

The Holy Name Society under the direction of Charles

M. Bennett has done much to improve the parish cemetery, known as St. Joseph's Cemetery, by way of new roads, shrubbery, and trees. This was at one time known as John Gossman's Farm.

Three of her sons were ordained to the priesthood: Fr. Anton Tague, June 2, 1917, pastor of St. Bernard's Church, Corning, Ohio. Fr. Anton Tague celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the priesthood June 21, 1942 at St. Bernard's, Corning, he being the Celebrant of the Solemn High Jubilee Mass. His brother, Rev. Fr. Herman Joseph Tague of the Assumption Church, Barnesville, was Deacon, while Dr. L. P. Falvey was Sub-Deacon. In the evening he was tendered a very fine banquet by his parishioners, receiving a purse and many fine gifts. Thirty-five priests honored Fr. Tague on this great day. Fr. Herman Joseph Tague, a brother, was ordained May 21, 1921. He is at present the administrator of The Assumption Parish, Barnesville. Fr. Fabian John Frecker, O.S.B., was ordained June 14, 1936. He is at present stationed at The Sacred Heart Church, Jeanette, Penna., as a Curate. He sang his first Solemn High Mass a week following his ordination. After his first Solemn High Mass he gave his priestly blessing to hundreds of his fellowtownsmen at the altar rail. The Church Societies gave the dinner in honor of the young priest in the church basement. Rev. Fr. J. B. Mattes was toastmaster at the dinner. Fr. Mattes being one of the long time pastors in Crooksville was well qualified to talk about the old days as he served the parish longer than any other priest at that time. Since then, Fr. L. P. Falvey holds the record of serving the parish fourteen years and has now been promoted to Holy Redeemer Parish, Portsmouth, Ohio, effective August 16, 1945.

Eight of her daughters have consecrated their lives to the service of The Master in Religion. Like the Blessed Virgin, they "Have chosen the best part." Mother M. Rose Bennett, O.S.F., entered the Mother-house of the Franciscan Sisters, Stella Niagara, N. Y., February 7, 1923. She is a member of the faculty at the Mother-house.

Sister M. Ida Longstreth entered the Mother-house of the Franciscan Sisters, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, August 15, 1913. She is stationed at the Mother-house.



Sister M. Angelo McNulty entered the Mother-house of the Order Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, Penna., August 15, 1913. She is a member of the faculty of the Queen of Martyrs School, Forest Hills, N. Y.

Sister Francis Xavier Mooney, O.P., entered the Mother-house of The Dominican Order, Columbus, January 6, 1927. She is a member of the faculty of St. Marys of the Springs College, East Columbus, Ohio.

Sister M. Bernardette Harbough, entered the Mother-house of The Ursuline Order, Caldwell, Ohio, August 9, 1928. She is a member of the High School Faculty.

Sister M. Vincent de Paul Napier, O.P., entered the Mother-house of the Dominican Order, Columbus, August 14, 1934. She is a member of the faculty of St. Marys of the Springs College, East Columbus. She has introduced a new nursing course at the college and has specialized in this work for a number of years. She attended Columbia University in New York.

Sister M. Bernardell Trischler, O.S.F., entered the Mother-house of The Franciscan Sisters, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, August 15, 1932. She is stationed at the Mother-house.

Sister M. Leonardine Cosgrave, O.S.F., is one of the younger Sisters from the parish. She entered the Mother-house of the Franciscan Sisters at Stella Niagara, N. Y., August 15, 1937. Sister is a member of the faculty of St. Anthony's High School, Charleston, West Virginia.

The parish has not grown to a very large parish during the span of years. The 75 families that comprise the parish have done much for Crooksville and the cause of religion. They have given a number of their sons and daughters, who in turn have consecrated their lives by the Vows of Religion, given their all to the service of The Master by their daily prayers and sacrifices, bringing countless blessings on their native town of Crooksville and the little parish church where they first learned the great lessons of Christianity.

### **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES OF CROOKSVILLE**

In the fall of 1910, a group of men and women became interested in the teaching of the Scriptures as set forth by

the International Bible Students' Association of Brooklyn, N. Y. Among those in this group were W. H. Cass, R. W. Hull, Frank Pierce, Emmett Campbell, C. P. Stotler, and others. This work was, and still is, carried on by the use of books, booklets, radio lectures, sermons, bible studies conducted in meeting halls and private homes, the Crooksville Company having done much work in the past thirty years with these instruments and have assisted in the organization of many companies of Jehovah's Witnesses in Southeastern Ohio.

The name Jehovah's Witnesses was adopted in September 1937 at the International convention held in Columbus and has been known as such since. The present Company Servant is C. P. Stotler and Assistant George Havelock.

### FREE METHODIST CHURCH

"The Free Methodist Church, organized in 1860, in Pekin, New York, was a prototype of the original Methodist Church. The Free Methodist Church is a body of Christians who profess to be in earnest to get to Heaven by conforming to all the will of God as made known in His Word. They solemnly protest against the union of the Church and the World. The conditions of Salvations, as they teach, are the same now as in the days of the Apostles.

Seeing the great need of a revival in Crooksville, two former residents of the city, Mr. Hurl Goff, and Mr. Earl Starcher, together with their pastor, Rev. R. B. Niles of the First Free Methodist Church of Zanesville, caught the vision and came down to hold a series of revival meetings in the down-town section. In the spring of 1940, they directed a series of evangelistic services, employing Rev. E. E. Jacobs for the first week of meeting. Miss Margaret Sager, Evangelist, was called to do personal work the second week. During this time Rev. Niles conducted the preaching services.

The following two weeks' services were held by Miss Margaret Sager, Rev. Niles preaching Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. During this meeting between 20 and 30 were at the altar, and a good Sunday School was organized. Mr. John Guffey of Zanesville acted as Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In July 1940, the Society was organized with 8 charter members. Miss Margaret Sager continued on as Assistant Pastor from the time of the organization of the Society until the Annual Conference of that year. At the Annual Conference, Miss Sager was stationed as regular pastor for one year at the Crooksville Free Methodist Church.

In the Conference year of 1940-41, 4 protracted meetings were held with evangelists Rev. Maxwell, Rev. Sherburne, Rev. Jones, and Rev. Shelhammer who closed the year with a tent meeting. During these meetings many sought the Lord for pardoning grace. One convert was an 83 year old man, a former bootlegger, marvelously transformed who died several years later praising the Lord as he slipped from this time-life into Eternity.

Rev. L. A. Robinson followed Mr. John Guffey as Sunday School Superintendent. He was succeeded by Mr. Earl Starcher in 1941, who is the present incumbent.

Rev. John Guffey served as Pastor for two years, from August 1941 to August 1943. A protracted meeting was held in 1941 with Rev. Orr of Zanesville as Evangelist. The following year Rev. Margaret Sager came as the Evangelist in a three weeks' meeting. Thirty or more knelt at the Penitent Form.

At the time of this writing, Rev. Margaret Sager has been Pastor for the last two years. Rev. T. B. Orr, radio pastor from Zanesville held a successful revival in the spring of 1944.

Since the organization of the Church, thousands of tracts have been passed out and many personal contacts have been made in house to house visitation, all to bring about a sweeping revival in Crooksville."

"There is no change in Thee,  
Lord God, the Holy Ghost,  
Thy glorious majesty is as Pentecost."

### APOSTOLIC GOSPEL CHURCH

"In February of 1936, a little band of people known as the "Apostolic Gospel People" who believe in the New Birth of Water and Spirit, came to Crooksville and opened a work in the Taylor building on Main Street near the rail-



road tracks under the leadership of Elder Glen Leaman. God honored the work, and a number of people were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and received the Holy Ghost according to St. John 3:5 and Acts 2:38.

They moved to the K of P Hall on Star Street, October 23, 1926. Then on July 22, 1937, they moved back into the Taylor building on Main Street, the government having purchased several buildings, including the K of P Hall for the location of the new post office. They moved from the Taylor building to the Pitcock building on West Main Street on November 30, 1937, Edwin Pitcock having purchased the Taylor building for a hardware store. In March of 1940, they purchased a garage from Stanley Schumaker on Sycamore Street. Then on April 22, 1940, they moved into the Spring Hall on China Street while the garage was being remodeled. They moved to the now present church on Sycamore Street on May 26, 1941 and on July 27 of the same year it was dedicated to the Lord by Elder W. T. Witherspoon of Columbus, Ohio, the National Chairman of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ."

### PRESENT BUSINESS FIRMS

The following list represents the business firms at the present time:

Advance Printing Company	Printing & Publishing
Melford C. Allen	Pressing, Cleaning, Tailoring
Ashland Oil & Refining Co.	Distributors
Franklin F. Baker	Groceries & Meat
Cannon & Cannon	Morticians
G. F. Cannon	Furniture
Ella M. Conway	Grocery
Wm. E. Cannon	Plastering & Concrete
Fred A. Corbett	Groceries & Meat
Lewis S. Dudley	Groceries & Meat
Carlton A. France	Groceries & Meat
Ann Freriks	Confectionery & Lunch
Charles M. Garrett	Restaurant
J. W. Giles	Shoe Repair Shop
E. S. Groff	Building Supplies



The Apostolic Gospel Church

Roy F. Hammond	Confections
Geo. W. Hankinson	Groceries & Meat
Dale Harper	Restaurant
Nial Holcomb	Groceries & Meat
Wm. Hughes	Restaurant
Kincaid Bros.	Department Store
Ralph D. Kinnan	Garage
Wm. C. Levering	Groceries & Meats
Maxwell & Maxwell	Clothing & Shoes
Mercer Auto Supply Co.	W & R
Harold Neff	Filling Station
Neff Oil Co.	W & R
Joseph Peart	Radio Appliances & Furniture
Edwin M. Pitcock	Hardware
Printz & Bucknor	Groceries
Jacob & Emma Rambo	Confectionery
Ruff & Keller	Groceries & Meats
Walter T. Singer	Hardware & Wallpaper
Souders & Cusick	Drugs
Albert N. Sowers	Groceries & Meats
Russell Spring	Variety Store
Howard W. Spung	Jewelry Repair & Gifts
Stiffler Stores	Department Store
Lloyd Stought	Groceries & Meat
Charles N. Tedrow	Filling Station & Beer
Werner & Wilson	Confection & Beauty Parlor
Winmore Service Co.	Gasoline & Oil
Wiseman Dairy Co.	Milk & Ice Cream
Chester C. Wolfe	Restaurant & Liquors
Young & Lewis	Filling Station
Majestic Theatre	Moving Pictures

The above persons who own and operate the general business of our city are men of ability. They command the respect of the public. Our business center is a beehive of activity.

## WORLD WAR II

At this time we are engaged in the most brutal war the world has ever known. The youth of our land is being slaughtered by the thousands. Crooksville has given many of her loyal sons to the service of their country. Practically





Basil Grimes Post No. 222 — American Legion

every home is affected. The sad news is bringing sorrow to our doors daily. Prayers are going up to the throne of a just God whom we can trust and await his verdict. Most just and merciful heavenly Father, may the end come soon, and Thy Will be done.

**Basil Grimes Post No. 222  
AMERICAN LEGION**

Charter Members of Basil Grimes Post No. 222 Crooksville, are as follows:

William J. Parry, Guy W. Ongell, Ellis Brown, John Ellis, Everett L. Eveland, Clay Dean, Dewey Fitzpatrick, Daniel Strickler, Edwin W. Drinkwater, John S. Peart, Edgar D. Allen, Douglas D. DeLong, Patrick Mooney, Chester Ryan and James Brannon.

Post was Chartered on October 29, 1919.

Officers for the first year were Commander Patrick Mooney, Vice Commander George Winters, Finance Officer John Skinnion, Historian Ellis Brown, and Chaplain John S. Peart.

**RECORDS OF MOST RECENT MAYORS  
MR. BRANNON**

After the sale of the farm of the late James Moore, the farm was surveyed, laid out into building lots, streets, and alleys, and plotted. The farm was then christened as the "Moore's Addition" to Crooksville. The lots were placed on sale. Building lots were in demand, and within thirty days over \$20,000 worth of lots were sold and paid for. The building boom began.

At this time, Mr. Emmett Brannon was elected Mayor of Crooksville. Much building was done. New Streets and Alleys opened up. Drilling for oil and gas was active. The opera house was built. Streets paved, etc. Under Mr. Brannon's administration the City Council purchased a large water wagon for street sprinkling. It was painted in bright colors and lettered "Crooksville, the only city on the map." Mayor Brannon drove the wagon on its first trip over our city, which was drawn by four horses owned by Cannon & Cannon.

During Mr. Brannon's entire administration he was enthusiastic and untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of his constituency.

**MR. LENTZ**

Mr. Wm. A. Lentz was elected Mayor to succeed Mr. Brannon. He served two terms. Both of his administrations were notable for the many street improvements completed, seven streets having been paved and many sidewalks laid during his first term, and a large number of similar improvements made during his second term, involving a heavy amount of work for the village Solicitors and other officers and employees of the village.

His second term was during the controversial period of National Prohibition, and a large number of liquor law violators who had been arrested by the Prohibition Enforcement Officers in various parts of the County were brought into the Crooksville Mayor's Court for Hearings, and if found guilty were fined heavily under the National Prohibition Law, which provided for fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, and during this period one local offender whose liquor distillery was raided, was fined \$1,250 on two charges, which is said to have set a new record for this section for liquor fines paid for a liquor law violation by one individual. These and other fines assessed increased the general fund of the Village treasury to the extent that at the close of his term the unexpended balance in the fund was the largest in the history of the village. At the time of Mr. Lentz' second administration, his services were very much needed. He was the logical man for the job. He performed his duties without fear or favor and closed his term with honor.

**MR. LONGLEY**

Following Mr. Lentz, Mr. C. L. (Kid) Longley was elected Mayor of Crooksville by a large majority. Many needed improvements took place under his administration.

The Municipal Building on China Street was erected; Volunteer Fire Department organized and equipped with fire fighting apparatus; building of the new concrete bridge across Jonathan Creek on Main Street which was done at no additional cost to the citizens of Crooksville as the county and state bore the expense equally; dredging and widening of Burley Run from Jonathan Creek to the west corporation



line relieving a flood situation which existed in the Keystone district extending from Moore Street to connect with North Buckeye Street and paving this section with concrete; laying of concrete sidewalk from the Municipal Building North to the Railroad switch near the Watt Pottery; widening North Buckeye Street and straightening the "S" curve at the North School building; laying of concrete sidewalk along East Side of North School building property; sewerage of Vaughn Street from Walnut Street east to China Street; also sewerage North Buckeye Street from High Street South to Z & W tracks; building of the dam East of town from which the city gets its water supply. All the preliminary work such as passing the necessary legislation was completed and the actual work started under Mr. Longley's administration, but were finished under the succeeding administration. The first ground was moved for the dam on December 15, 1933. He also obtained permission from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to build the community park just off Main Street between Main track and switch of the railroad.

Mr. Longley served as Mayor during the years 1930, 1931, 1932, and 1933. His administration throughout was progressive, dignified, and commendable.

### MR. HOOPS

Following Mr. Longley, Mr. Ross K. Hoops took over the office of Mayor, January 1, 1934. From the beginning of his administration, his policies were constructive. Joseph L. Meenan and J. Donald Kincaid were the City Solicitors. He had the full cooperation of his entire official body, Councilmen, Street Commissioner, and Marshal. Clair Butts served as Marshal seven years at which time he resigned to assume his duties as Sheriff of Perry County. Mr. John Brown was appointed to finish the unexpired term of Mr. Butts' Office as Marshal.

During Mr. Hoops' administration as Mayor, the storage dam was finished; three miles of pipe line completed connecting the reservoir with the pump house; many sidewalks were laid; the small Municipal Park by the Pennsylvania Railroad in the center of the city was finished; the new Municipal Park and Swimming Pool were constructed,

finished and dedicated August 28, 1941; many of the above improvements accomplished through aid of W. P. A.

Mr. Hoops was proud of his accomplishments during the terms of his administration and won the confidence of the public.

### MR. MERCER

Our present incumbent, Mr. Wm. Mercer, succeeded Mr. Hoops. Mayor Mercer was not to be outdone by any of his predecessors, so he just rolled up his sleeves and started to work at his job. The following is his record since he became Mayor of our City: Black topping South State Street, East Main Street, and China Street; resurfacing of Keystone Street or Burley Run, North State, and Ridge Avenue or No. 669 in the Corporation limits. Several lines of sewer tile were placed; some of the most recent being an 18" placed on the west side of Pine Street and also a sewer on the south side of Main Street from Buckeye. A very important project is started in conjunction with the property owners on the north side of Main Street which when completed will dispose of all waste in that section of town, and also eliminate a traffic hazard by making it possible for trucks to unload in the rear of business establishments, thus eliminating double parking. A clean-up plan was also inaugurated at no cost to the property owner. Every 30 days all tin cans and ashes are picked up by the Street Department and hauled to the village dump.

Some of the most important Ordinances are as follows: Ordinance to increase salary of Clerk of Water Works Department, Laborers on street, Treasurer, Fire Chief, Councilmen, Water Works Superintendent, and Marshal; Ordinance requiring a permit before disturbing or tearing up of street and alleys; Ordinance authorizing the Board of Public Affairs to spend \$5,000 for impounding reservoir; Prohibiting the driving of trucks or tractors or other vehicles with cleats upon the streets of Crooksville.

It is Bill's ambition to have all important and side streets covered with black mix coating and concrete sidewalks constructed before the close of his administration. He declares he will have it done unless he should be called to some important government position at Washington, D. C. or elsewhere.

## FROM MARTINSBURG, W. VA. TO PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

Briefly: In the year of 1798, a man by the name of Joseph Crooks, Jr. migrated from Martinsburg, Va. (now Martinsburg, W. Va.) to Ohio, took up a government claim of 400 acres of land in Muskingum County, cleared a strip of land on which the County Court House now stands, built a log cabin, and established his residence at this point. The National Pike, as it was called at that time, was the main thoroughfare, but there was no bridge across the Muskingum River. The traffic crossed by ford. In this new home which Mr. Crooks had established, a little girl was born, who was said to be the first white child born along the Muskingum River between Marietta and Zanesville. Mr. Crooks built and operated a ferry boat, transporting travelers across the river at a point where the famous "Y" Bridge now spans this stream. Mr. Crooks (the date is not known) disposed of his land and log cabin, moved to Fultonham with his family, taking up another government claim of 400 acres of land, where the Weller Flour Mill now stands. He built a log tavern which was known as the famous "Crooks Tavern" and operated this until his death. This Joseph Crooks, Jr. was my father's (Joseph E. Crooks) grandfather.

In the year 1850, my grandfather, Jacob Crooks was living in Muskingum County on the ridge road between Roseville and Fultonham on a little farm of possibly 25 acres of land. He sold this farm, moved over into Perry County and purchased a 40 acre farm from William Bierd and his wife Anna L. Bierd, and located on the Saltillo Road near Mt. Horeb Cemetery.

It might be of interest to the readers to review a copy of this transaction. The following is a correct copy taken from the recorder's office at New Lexington, Ohio.

### PURCHASE PRICE

Know all men by these presents that we, William Bierd and Anna L. Bierd, his wife, of the county of Perry, Ohio, in consideration of the sum of Fourteen Hundred and Fifty dollars in hand paid by Jacob Crooks of Muskingum County,



have bargained and sold and do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Jacob Crooks, his heirs and assigns forever, the following premises situated in the County of Perry, Ohio, it being the North East quarter of the North West quarter of section eighteen in township fourteen of range fourteen, containing forty acres, be the same more or less. Also the North West quarter of the North East quarter of section eighteen, township fourteen, range fourteen, containing forty acres more or less.

To have and to hold said premises with the appurtenances unto the said Jacob Crooks, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said William Bierd, for himself and heirs, doth hereby covenant with said Jacob Crooks, his heirs and assigns that he is lawfully seized of the premises aforesaid, that the premises are free and clear from all incumbrances whatsoever, and that he will forever warrant and defend the same with the appurtenances unto the said Jacob Crooks, his heirs and assigns against the lawful claims of all persons.

In testimony whereof the said William Bierd and Ann L. Bierd, have hereunto set their hands and seal this 26th of March, A. D. 1855.

William H. Beard (Seal)

Ann Louisa Beard (Seal)

Executed in the presence of

James Watts

Austin Watts

THE STATE OF OHIO, PERRY COUNTY, S. S.

On the 26th day of March A. D. 1855, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace within and for said county, personally appeared the said William Bierd and Ann L. Bierd who signed and sealed the foregoing deed and acknowledged the signing and sealing thereof to be their act and deed for the purpose therein expressed and the said Ann L. Bierd, wife of the said William Bierd, being by me examined separate and apart from her said husband and the contents of the said deed being fully made known to her by the reading of the same in her presence did declare upon such separate examination that she did voluntarily sign, seal and acknowledge the same and that she is still satisfied therewith.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

James Watts, J. P. (Seal)

October 17, 1858 he made a Will: It is as follows:

In the name of the Benevolent Father of all, I, Jacob Crooks of the state of Ohio and county of Perry, do make and publish this my last will and testament.

Item 1st—That all my just debts be paid out of my estate.

Item 2nd—I give and devise to my beloved wife in lieu of her dower, the farm on which we now reside, situated in the county of Perry, to-wit, as follows: It being the north-east quarter of the north-west quarter of section eighteen, in township fourteen, of range fourteen, containing forty acres. Also the north-west quarter of the north-east quarter of section eighteen, township fourteen of range fourteen, containing forty acres more or less, during her natural life time, provided she remains my widow, and all the stock, household goods, furniture, provisions and other goods and chattels, which may be thereof at the time of my decease, during her natural life time as aforesaid.

I bequeath to my son Charles H. Crooks my gray mare's last spring colt.

I desire that no appraisement and no sale of my personal property be made, and that the Court of Probate direct the omission of the same in pursuance of the statute.

I do hereby revoke all former wills by me made, in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the seventeenth day of October in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-eight.

It is my will that my wife act as guardian for my three minor children, namely, Wm. Crooks, Harriet Crooks, and Amanda Crooks.

I do hereby nominate and appoint Joseph Crooks and William Dunn Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

In testimony hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 17th day of October, in the year 1858.

His

JACOB (X) CROOKS (SS)

Mark

Signed and acknowledged by said Jacob Crooks as his last will and testament in our presence, and signed by us in his presence.

JOHN B. DELONG

AMOS W. SOWERS

The State of Ohio, Perry County, S. S.

In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy of the last will and testament of Jacob Crooks, deceased, late of said county, as taken from the original remaining on file in my office.

I, William M. Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of said County, have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at New Lexington in said county, this 6th day of April A. D. 1859.

William M. Brown, Judge.

### APPRAISAL

May 7th, 1859, we the undersigned appraisers of the estate and property of Jacob Crooks, deceased, after being duly sworn have made an inventory and appraisalment thereof as follows:

3 old Sythes and one old cradle	.50
2 Shovel Plowes	.10
3 Broad hoes and one iron bolt	.10
2 Hogsheads	.25
1 Bord box	.05
1 Fanning Mill	6.00
1 Shaven Horse	.10
1 One horse slay	.75
1 One horse wagon	8.00
1 Two horse wagon	18.00
1 Two horse plowe	.50
1 Doubletree	.10
1 Yearling calf	5.00
1 Two horse plowe	3.00
1 Shovel Plowe	.50
1 Log chain	.50
1 Two horse sled	.05
1 Pair one horse stretcher	.18
1 Set of Plow gears	.50
2 Sets Wagon gears	2.00



3 Pair Hames	.30
1 Set Buggy Harness	1.00
1 Backband trace chain & bridle	.10
A lot of hip straps and four stirrups	.10
1 Shovel plowe	.75
A lot of hoes, forks and shovel	.25
1 Grindstone	.05
1 Two horse stretcher open ring and chain	.31
1 Pair hay ladders	.05
1 Gray Mare	12.00
1 Gray mare and colt	75.00
1 Hand saw	.10
1 Cross cut saw and file	2.00
1 Dining Table	2.00
1 Mantle Clock	3.00
1 Drawing Knife	.15
1 Pair Steelyards	.50
1 Kitchen Cupboard	.50
1 Blacksmith Punch	.05
1 Small Stand	.10
1 Hatchet	.50
3 Corn Cutters	.05
1 Lot old straps & chains, old iron & stuffer	.10
6 Lights window sash	.05
1 Tin horn	.05
1 Small Chest	.25
5 Old Window chairs	.10
1 Riding Bridle	.37
1 Little Spinning Wheel	.05
5 Cords Wood, supposed	4.10
1 Large stove kettle	.50
1 Stue pot	.10
2 Hogs	8.00
1 peck measure & 1 half bushel	.10
3 Acres Grass	3.00
2½ Acres Grass	5.00

Whole amount \$166.81

We do hereby certify the above to be correct, given under our hands this 7th day of May, 1859.

G. W. BRUMAGE

JAMES I. BROWN APPRAISERS

WILLIAM ADAMS

This farm has changed ownership several times since the death of my grandfather. The late John Richards owned it for several years, then Elbert Cannon, then Earl Starcher who recently sold it to Gust Elmore. I am told there are parts of two or three cherry trees still standing near the dwelling that bear some fruit. Jacob Crooks died October 22, 1858. He was the father of Joseph E. Crooks, first Postmaster of Crooksville, for whom the town was named. For a number of years I have coveted the privilege of compiling some facts concerning our little city and the surrounding community. About 90% of the facts which I have compiled are from memory. I hope they will be of interest to you and will serve of some value as a record.

THE END



### ORIGINAL CROOKSVILLE BAND — TAKEN 1895

BACK ROW—STANDING—LEFT TO RIGHT—Howard Brown, Harry Moore, Edgar "Dink" Watts, Harry German, "Possum" Stoneburner, Ed Burley, Ed German, Ed Watts.  
 FRONT ROW—SEATED—LEFT TO RIGHT—Lloyd Printz, Vesta Pitcock, Eddie Brown, Ross Curl, Charlie "Spider" Watts, and Biddie' Watts.





Crooksville's Municipal Building



G. F. Cannon Furniture Store



A. N. Sowers Grocery





Clara Glass Variety Store



Mercer's 5c - \$1.00 and up Store





The Kroger Store





The Gem Confectionery



"The Alpine" Recreation Center



The Atlantic and Pacific Food Store





Singer Hardware Store



Majestic Theatre



Wiseman's Dairy





Werner and Wilson Confectionery and Beauty Parlor



Starcher's Shoe Shop



The David Thomas Coal Mine





Kinnan's Garage



Pierce and Wilson — Retail Dealers

Winters Supply—Wholesale Dealers

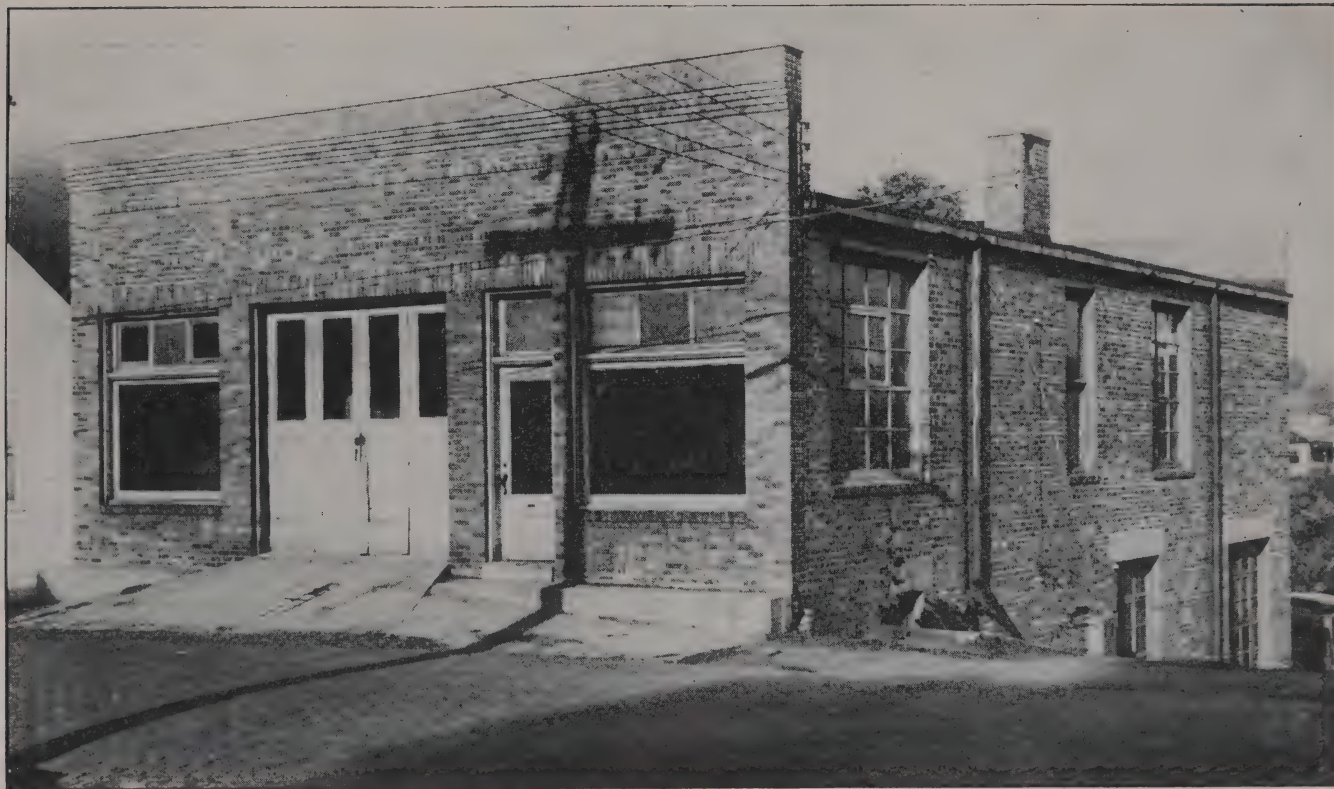


Mercers's Auto Supply





C. W. Vanhorn Service Station



Malfe's Garage



The Harold Neff Service Station





The Ashland Oil and Refining Co.

















